



Challenger Gets 2

Hinako Takanaga

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Mitsugu Kurokawa and Tomoe Tatsumi have come to an agreement. The agreement allows tenant Tatsumi to reside with landlord Kurokawa without feeling threatened by his homosexuality. Both are ready to go on as though nothing ever happened... but they're not the only ones with a say in the matter. Family, friends, and rivals pressure both young men to assert themselves— or suffer the consequences!

Included in this volume are *The Unspeakable Truth*, a side story exposing the unspeakable irony behind Souichi's prejudice. And the *Rejected Idea Special*, a hilarious 15-page manga gift from author Hinako Takanaga.

Enjoy!



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CHALLENGERS V02 BOYS LOVE

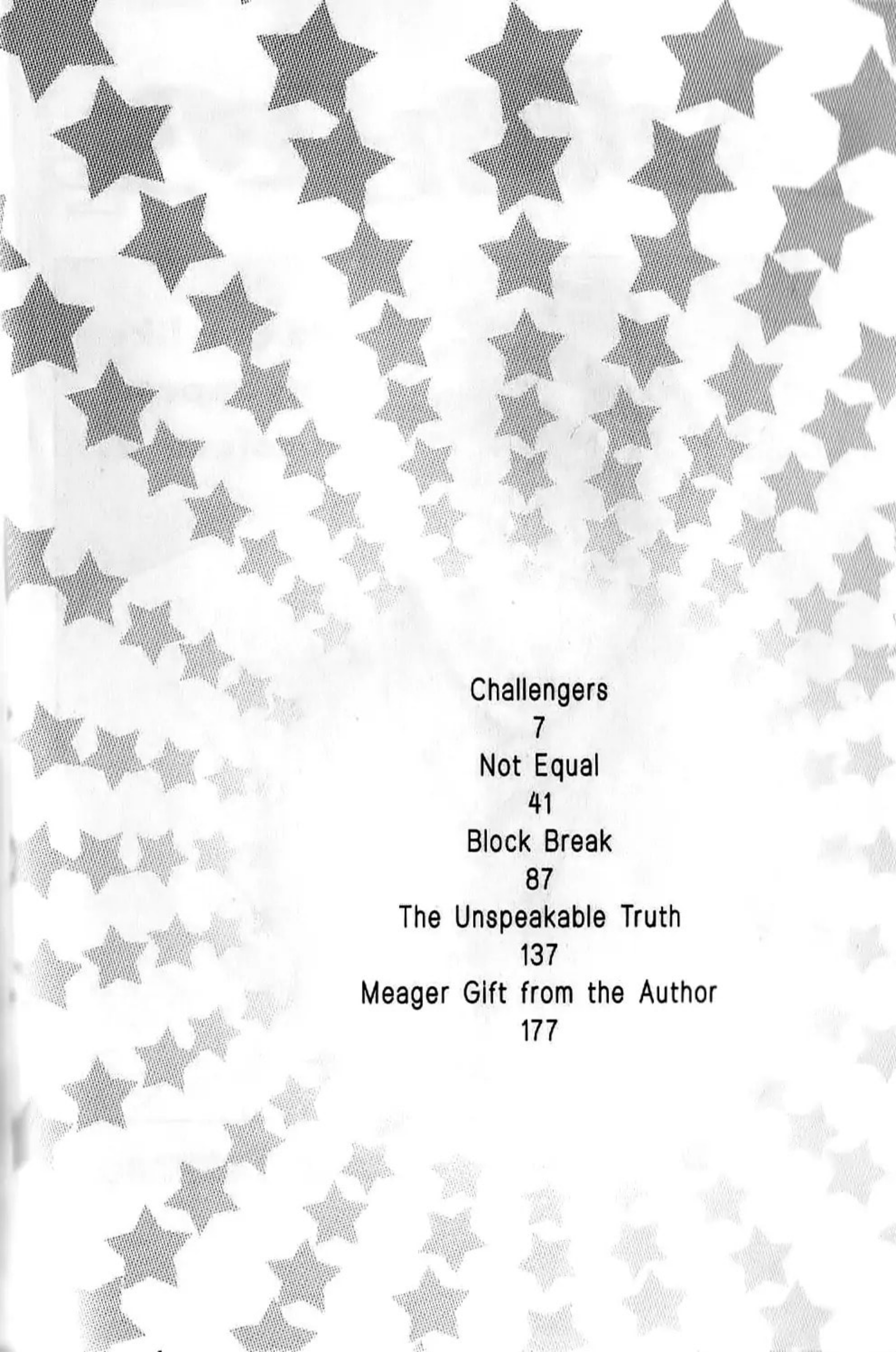


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MANGA - BOYS LOVE

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Challengers

7

Not Equal

41

Block Break

87

The Unspeakable Truth

137

Meager Gift from the Author

177

In accordance
with an
agreement
made out of
desperation,

It's been
three weeks
since the
dramatic
confession.

Tomoe
Tatsumi
continues
as tenant,

Mitsugu
Kurokawa
continues
as landlord,

and both
act as
though
nothing
ever
happened.



Sure.
What's
up?

But, of
course
....



Tatsu-
mi-
kun?

Can you
spare a
minute?

Ah!
Kuro-
kawa
-san.

NO
NO





We're only living together now thanks to a high-pressure hands-off policy.

It's like I made a mistake and have to pay for it by giving up.

What's that?

But there's something bothering me.

SIGH

This agreement has sunk my battleship.

—thus.

I won't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
[So please don't leave.]

The agreement being—



Otherwise, you'd be wasting all my efforts!!

AND A GOOD THING IT IS!!



I'm keeping my promise to him...
...for now.

Tatsumi-kun's faith in the agreement doesn't change your objective.

My artwork this time looks more serious (compared to last time, and what a devil of a time I had with it), or so I like to think.... But if it makes your reading experience even slightly more enjoyable, then it was worth it. I look forward to seeing you again next time and every time thereafter.

✧ Hinako
✧ TAKANAGA
I haven't had much time to play with Choro lately, so he's in a huffy mood.

But then that stupid manga was **MORE POPULAR THAN**

MY FREE TALKS, so I can't get rid of it.

Where is the respect due to me as an author?

Twitch, twitch...

In the old version of this volume, there were 18 pages of free talk space, so I drew the "Rejected Idea Special." It was just a gag manga, so I figured I could cut two pages and throw in a more serious afterword.

Hello, all. I'm Hinako ✧
TAKANAGA Thank you for deigning to read my unworthy composition.

This is a weird place for a free talk, though. Sorry 'bout that....

2 What can I say...? The editor said there wasn't any space left for an afterword in volume 2 (which is actually like volume 3).... I was surprised... because I thought it would be better to mix the old talk up a bit....

GREETINGS

1

FREE TALK

FIN



as it
was me
getting
drunk
and
forcing
myself
on him
that
led to:

It
wasn't
the
confes-
sion so
much

I know.
I'm grateful,
really.

Great,
then lunch
is on you
today.

Uh—



I love you
a lot,
Kurokawa-san
....



But I don't
think I love
you....In the
same way...



Figured...?
There's nothing
to figure. That was
an unmitigated
disaster.

*You scored
an unequivocal
kiss-off.*

UH



I figured
that was
the kiss
of death.

Ah,
Rick?

Did
your
class
let out
late?

W.U.

Tomoe!!

I knowed
when your
class let
out, so I
waited.

W-We
don't
know that
for sure.

He said
OK to
going out,
you know.

But neither
of you
consider it
a date.

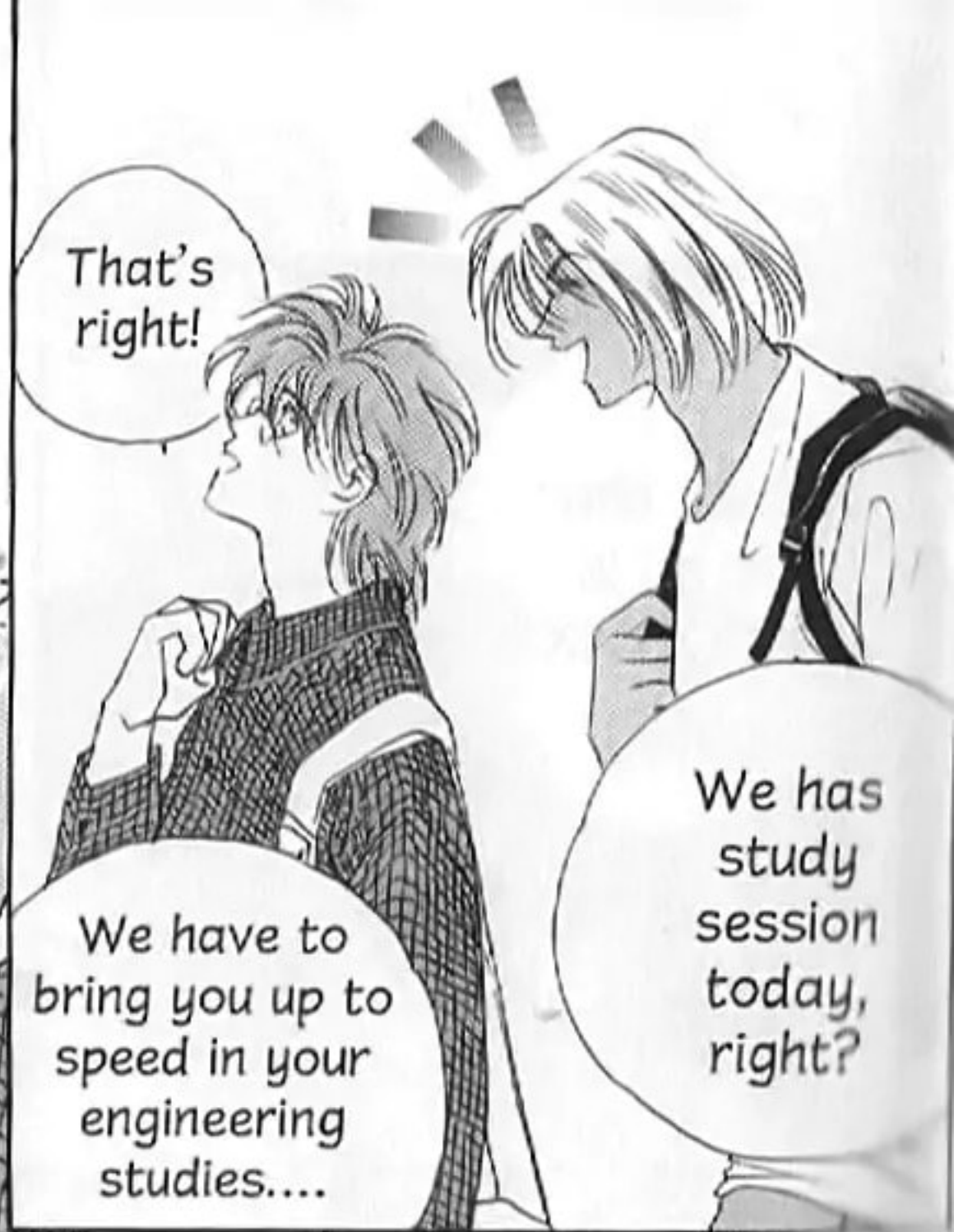
But he's
still living
with me,
you know!

But only
under the
provisions
of your
agreement.

You
never learn,
do you?



I so happy! I get to spend all day with Tomoe.♡



That's right!

We have to bring you up to speed in your engineering studies....

We has study session today, right?



SHOVE

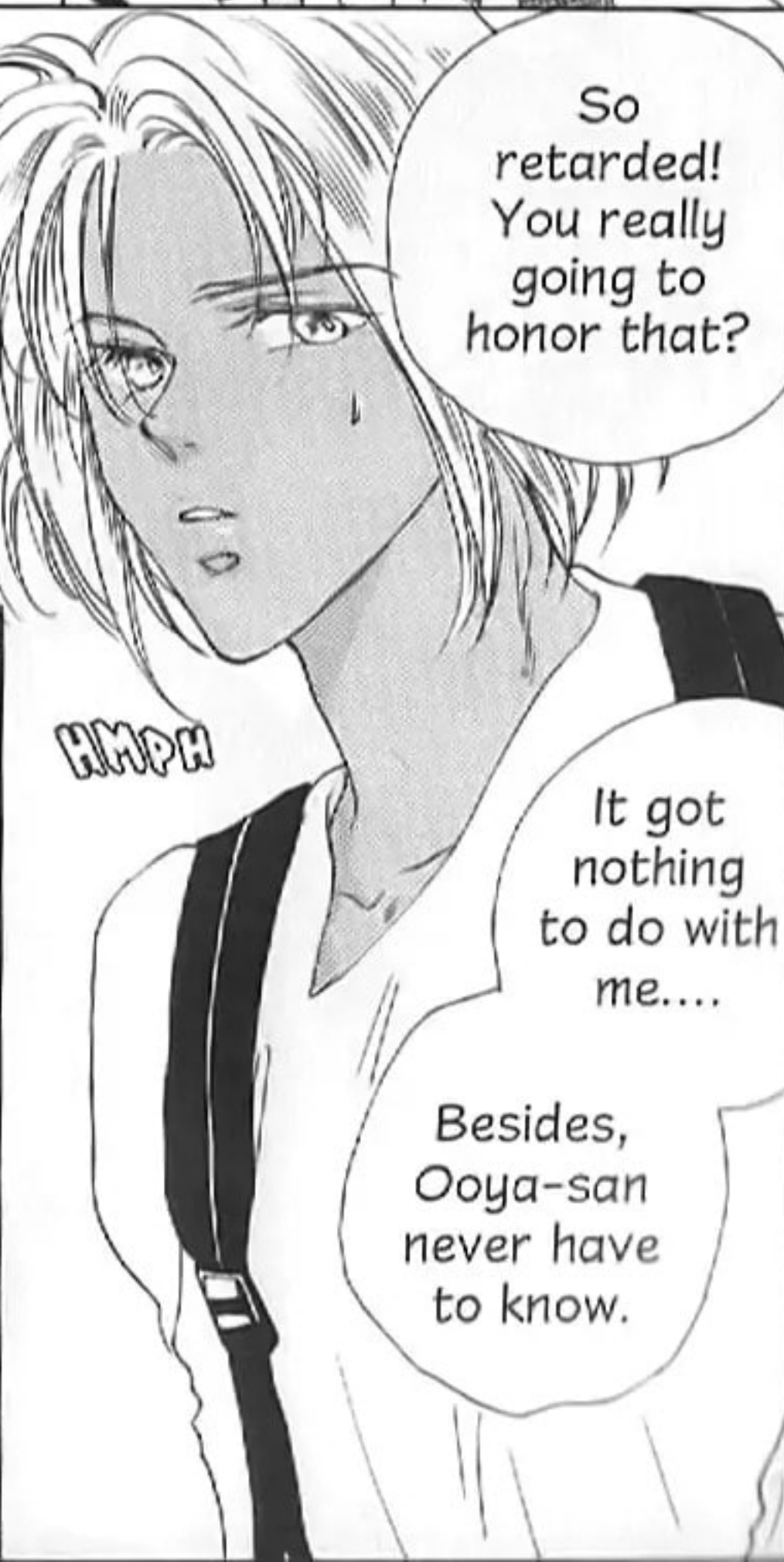
Ow

Not like that!



That's not the point.

Bullshit!



So retarded! You really going to honor that?

It got nothing to do with me....

Besides, Ooya-san never have to know.

"I DO NOTHING. YOU LET NOTHING HAPPEN."

I promised Kurokawa-san,

OK?



Either that,
or he is
imXXXXXX.

Impo....

What?

doesn't
love you as
much as I
love you.



If that's
really the
case, then
Ooya-san

Living under
one roof with
person you love
and not doing
anything!



Pardon?



No....



Whereas I
longing for you,
longing for you
so much I can't
sleep at night.

Tomoe, you have
feeled longing
like that before
and understand,
right?

YEE!

YES.

Very.

I've never felt....

any such thing.

Explain to me.

EH 0000

I guess this must sound....

strange?

You wouldn't understand, Rick!!

Not something like this.

UWA-WA-WA-WA-WAIT!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY NO?!

T-Tomoe, come on....

I knew you is innocent, but I didn't think is so much.

If that how it is, then I gladly teach you everything.



Huh?

C'mon.♥
Let's
have
fun!



Of
course
not....

I just
meaned, why
don't we have
some fun this
weekend?



What are
you
implying?

There's
nothing wrong
with being
contemplative,
is there?

laterly, your
mind seem
occupied.
With what?

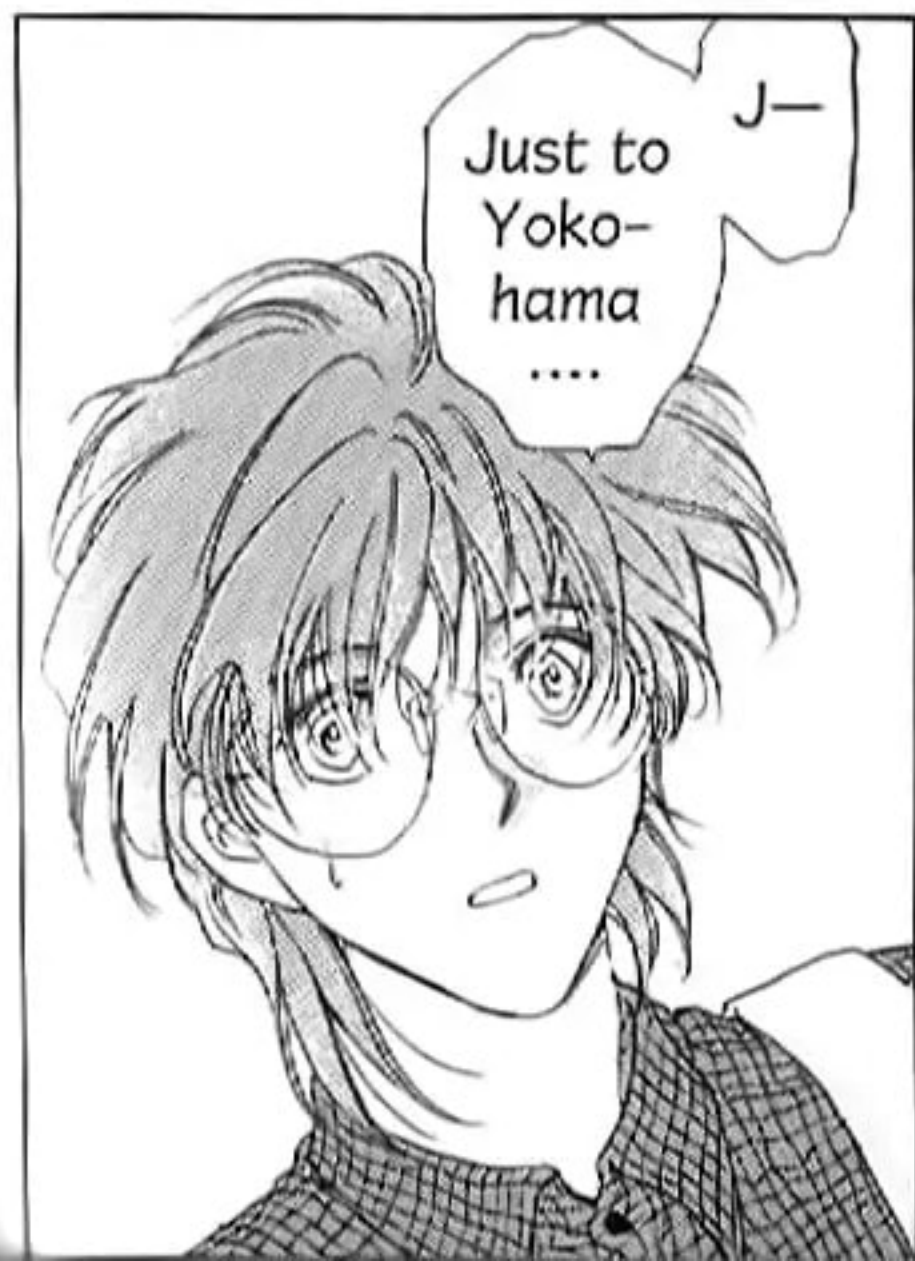
Frustration
doesn't suit
you.



Huh?!

Oh...
I'm
sorry.

I already made
plans for this
weekend with
Kurokawa-san.



Just to
Yoko-
hama
....



**YOU'RE
GOING OUT
TOGETHER?**

**WHERE
TO?**

**WHAT
YOU
MEAN
—?**

*I knewed
I smelled
bullshit!*



Ooh, well, I never been to Yokohama, either.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

... Now,

I look forward to seeing Landmark Tower.

He was very insistent on coming....

TWITCH

TWITCH



Let's not dawdle. Train's about to leave!

Hey, um, is something the matter?

SIGH-

He doesn't get it

I knew it I knew he wouldn't get it

SLITTING



It's
their
minato!!
*(bay area)

OOH!
OOH!

you can
see the
harbor,
look!

Ah!!
Over
there,



Hey,
Rick.

I couldn't keep
you from butting
in today, but since
you're the fifth
wheel here,

try to behave
yourself.



Isn't this
a violation
of your
agreement?



You in no
position to
speak.
And I here especially
to misbehave.

In fact,
I could say
same thing
to you.



Either way,
I won't allow
anything to
happen
today.

You
sure?

I'm not
violating
anything!

No,
because
we're just
hanging
out!!



unlike
you....



I not bound
by any
agreement...



That's
my line!
Don't even think
of trying to take
advantage of
Tatsumi-kun while
I'm around!

Ha!



Ah, hey,
this is
where we
get off,
isn't it?



Current stop,
Sakuragi-chou,
Sakuragi-chou.

Nothing!!

What are
you two
whispering
about over
there?



**SAYONARA,
BUDDY!!**

Wh—WHOA?!



We
better
hurry
before—

Huh?



K-K-K-
Kuroka-
wa-san?!

Huh?
Wait a—!!



Y—
You
gotta be
kidding
me!



WAVE
Explore that
Landmark
Tower all
you want
without us!!

KA-THUN

KA-THUN

Kuro-
kawa-
san
....

Gucker!!

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH

WAH—!

It's, um...
not the
change of
plans I
mind....

What
about
Rick...?

KA-THUN

It's all
right!!

Just a small
change of plans.
You and me will
go to Hakkeijima
instead.

KA-THUN

I invited you
out today
because you're
the person I
want to spend
the day
with.

so try to
overlook
our petty
bickering.

Rick
and I
are
rivals,

Rick will
be fine on
his own.

He's got
nerves of steel.

Understand?

Listen
....

SIGH





There have
to be some
way....

I need to
track them
down.

but I don't
know way
around
Yokohama....



BEAM
♡



Chicks

...

What?
No
way!

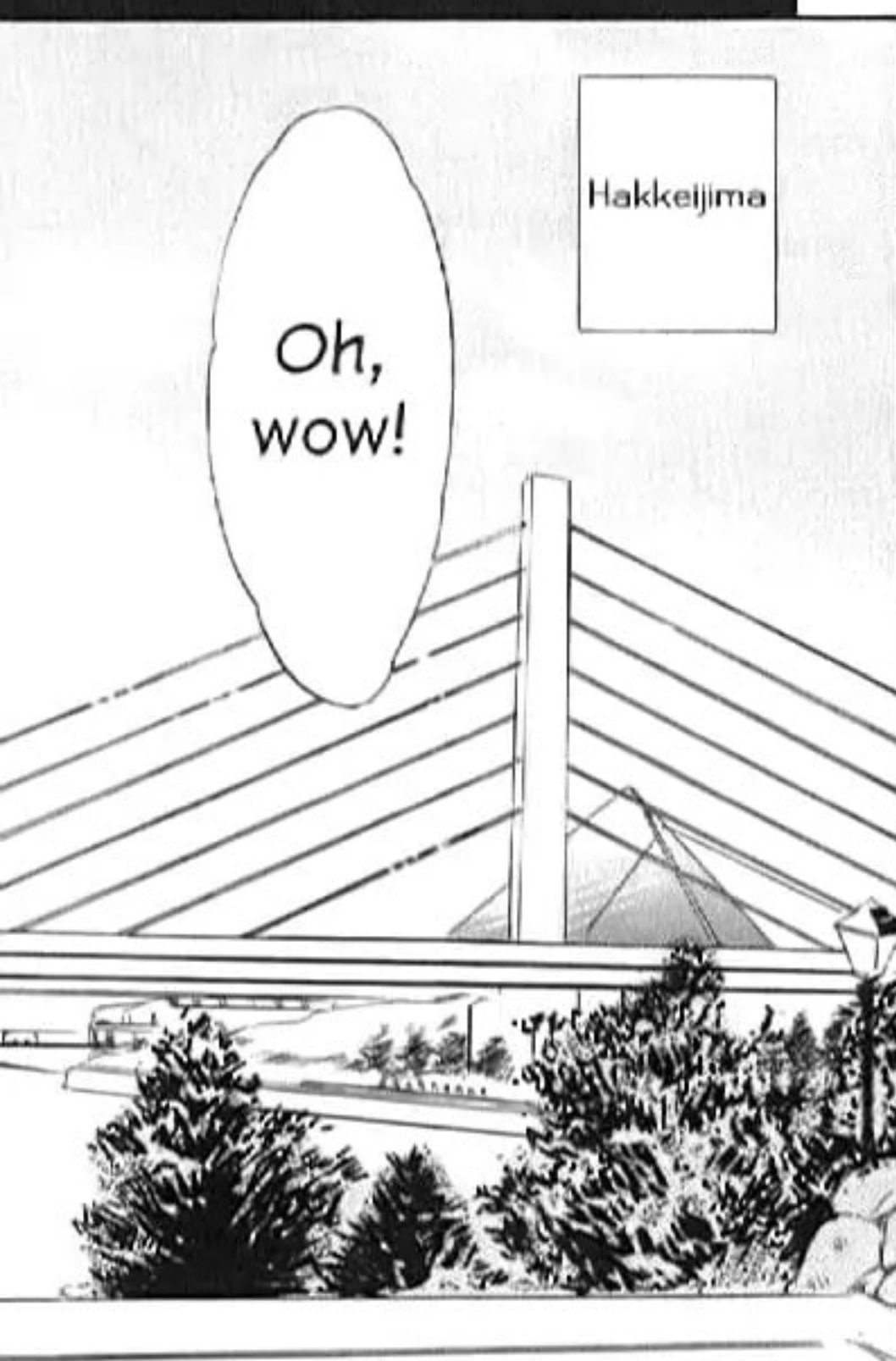
Try
talking
to him!



Check
out that
fine guy.

OOH!
AH!

Is that
his hair
for real?



Hakkeijima

Oh,
wow!



This my
first time in
Yokohama....

Think you
can show
me popular
date spots?

Hey, ladies,
would you
happen to
be locals?

Beggars
can't be
choosers.

Us?

OMIGOSH!



You go
to the
aquarium
a lot?

I like the
aquarium in
Nagoya's
bay area,
too,

but this
is great.

Ah, a
moray!

Amazing!

It's sooo
beautiful!



Yeah? And
how about the
Kaiyukan
Aquarium in
Osaka?

I've been
there,
too, yeah!



I see. And
robots fall under
the category of
"things that
move," huh?

I like to
watch
anything
that moves,
I guess.

Not
espe-
cially.

There's
a nice
place in
Toba, too.



HA
HA
HA
Is that
all it takes
to freak out
Souichi-kun?

We'll have to
get him a stuffed
animal, then.

As a good
luck charm.

I went
with my
brother,
but

he thought
the whale
sharks looked
freaky.



[1000 yen]



I never thought
I'd be going
on a roller coaster
date at my age....

Ugh, what a
place to realize
the difference
in our ages....



Huh?

WOBBLE

Only
ten
dollars
each!
How about
a Surf Coaster
memorial
photo?

THAT
WAS
SO
MUCH
FUN!!



I originally thought we'd admire the view at night from atop the Landmark Tower...

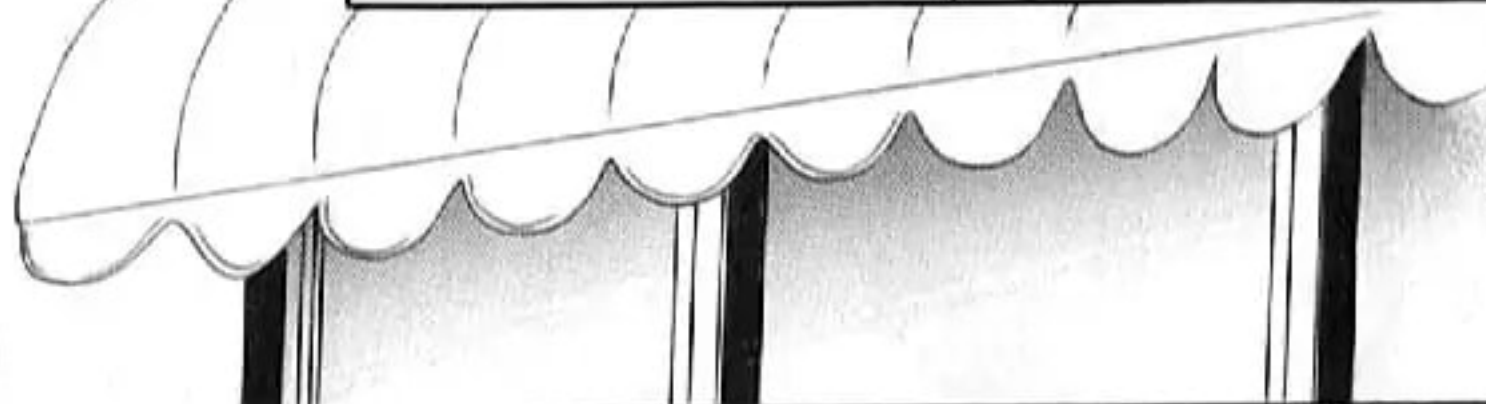
How about some juice?
I'll go buy us some!

Ah-



...but this seems to suit Tatsumi-kun much better.

Ha ha



It feels like it's been a while since he and I spent a day together like this.



Now this really feels like a date.

Even living under one roof, a student and a businessman don't have much time for each other.



I feel...

When it's like this...





...that I love
Tatsumi-kun.

What?

deeply
...

No-
thing.

Hakkeijima

was so
cool!!



CHI-KAK.

You're
saying it's
OK to ask
you out on
a date
again?



Sure!

Why
not?



You
mean
that?



And one whole
day wasn't even
enough to see
everything....

Like the
Landmark
Tower.

Let's do
this again
some time!



Don't
qualify your
statements
like that.

D-Don't...?



Ah, by
date
I mean... just
like today.

Hanging out....
I'll naturally
honor the
agreement....



Either
way, I had
a good
time....

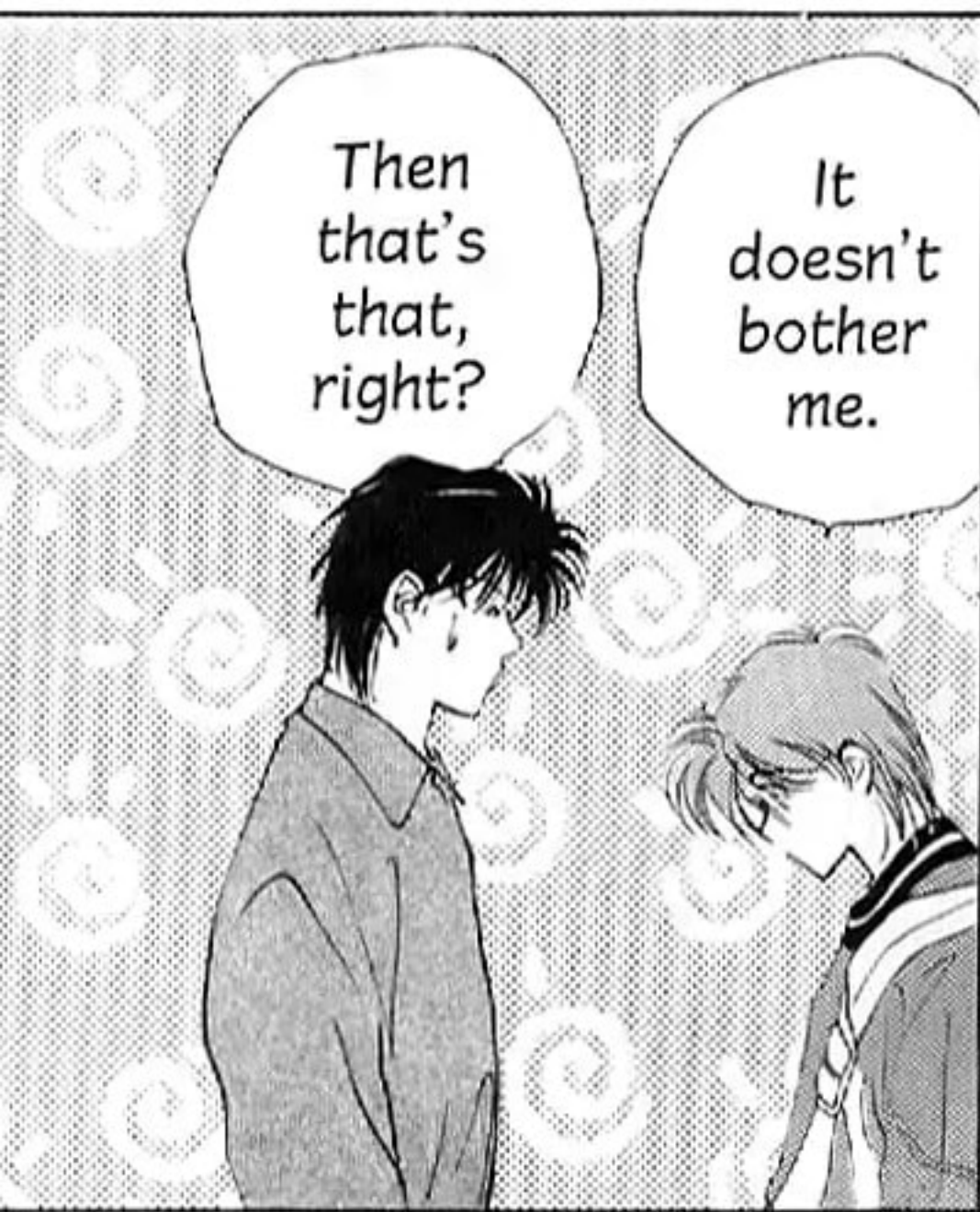
It...
doesn't
matter
to me.



However
...



Really? Then
we'll definitely
have to do
it again.





Well, for
one thing,
I'm a guy,

so why
can't you
just love
me

as a
friend?

"Why?"

?

Wh—



It surprised
me, too, at
first.

something
that you
know...

Wow, um...
there's no
concrete
reason, it's
just...

How is it
different?

Y... you
sure know
how to ask
tough
questions....

...whether
you
wanna
do
someone
or not.

I see....

It's
normal,
then....



In high school, there was this girl.

We became close friends, but it never developed beyond that.

Tatsumi-kun?

I wonder...

why everyone else can feel these things so naturally....

"I understand completely," would also be a valid and honest response here.

W-Wow

Really?

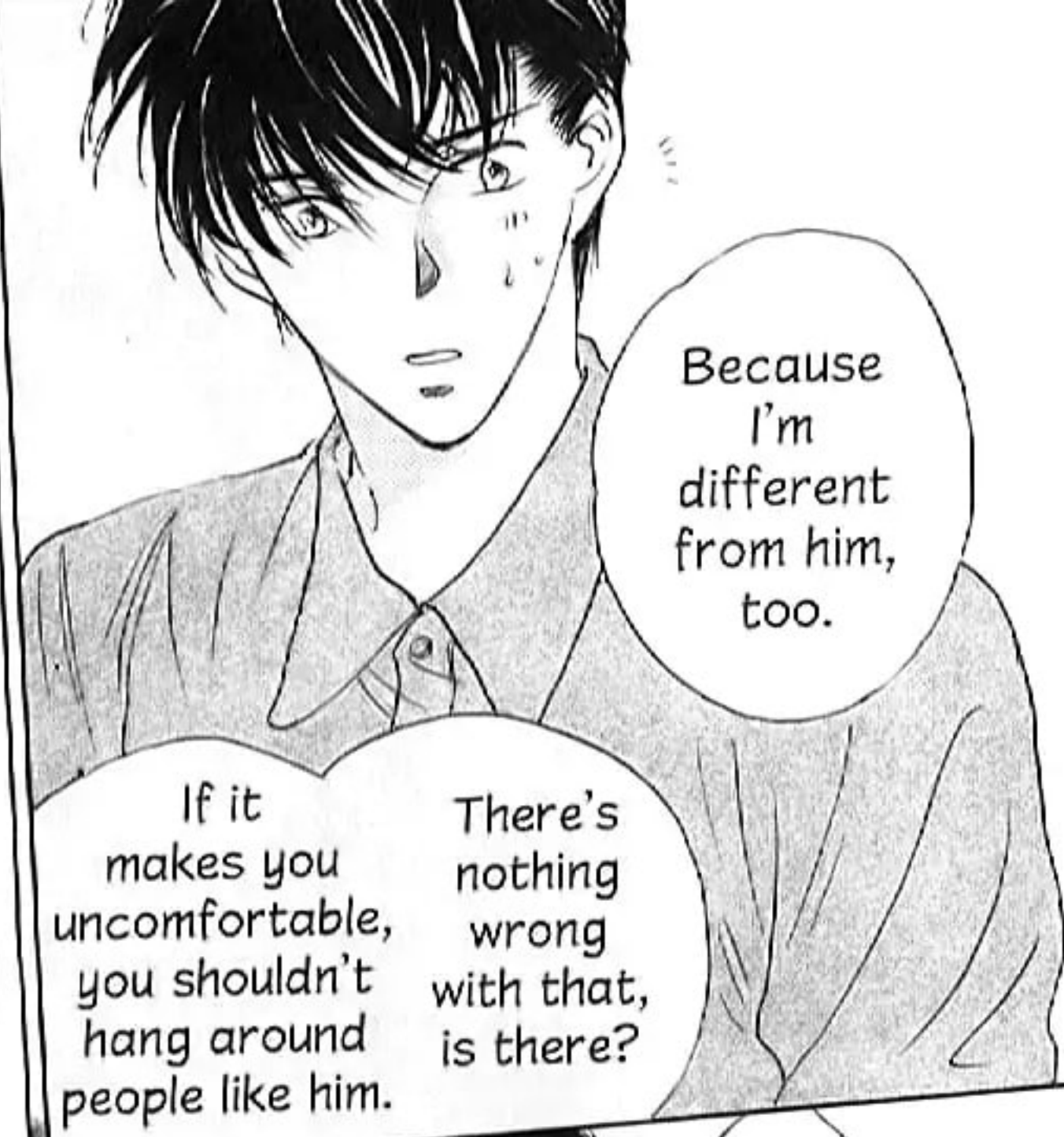
And it wasn't just her.

I've never thought of anyone in that way....

Not even the professors I deeply respect.

I longing for you, longing for you so much I can't sleep at night.

And Rick—he thinks I'm strange.





it wasn't just a
way of letting me
down gently.

You have
nothing to
be sorry
for.

You
don't
have to
apologize.

So that's
what's been
on his mind.

And when
he said,

I love you a lot,
Kurokawa-san,
but I don't
think—

I love you
in the same
way....



Maybe
if I
try it,

then I'll
know.

and tell me
how he
honestly
felt....

He was
genuinely
trying to
sort out his
feelings



What?

....



To know the results, you have to experiment.

Well, it's the same with anything.

This is no time for science analogies!

I don't mean that part—what about the other part?

No, no, no!

Huh?

Wh-Wh-What are you saying?

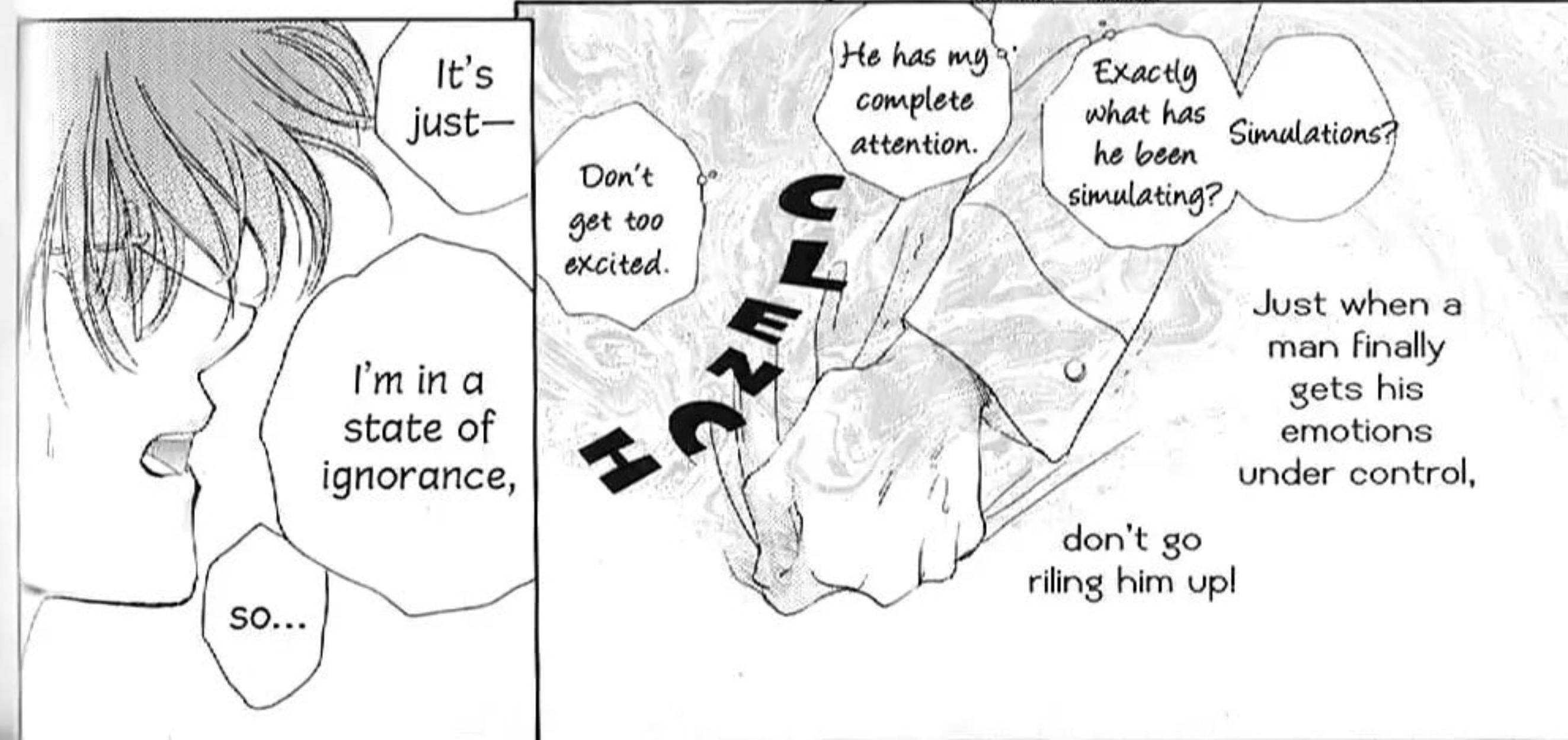
Where is he going with this?!

Running simulations in my head isn't getting me anywhere.

until I try it.

I can't know what I'll like or dislike

Wha—?



It's just—

I'm in a state of ignorance,

so...

Don't get too excited.

He has my complete attention.

Exactly what has he been simulating?

Simulations?

Just when a man finally gets his emotions under control,

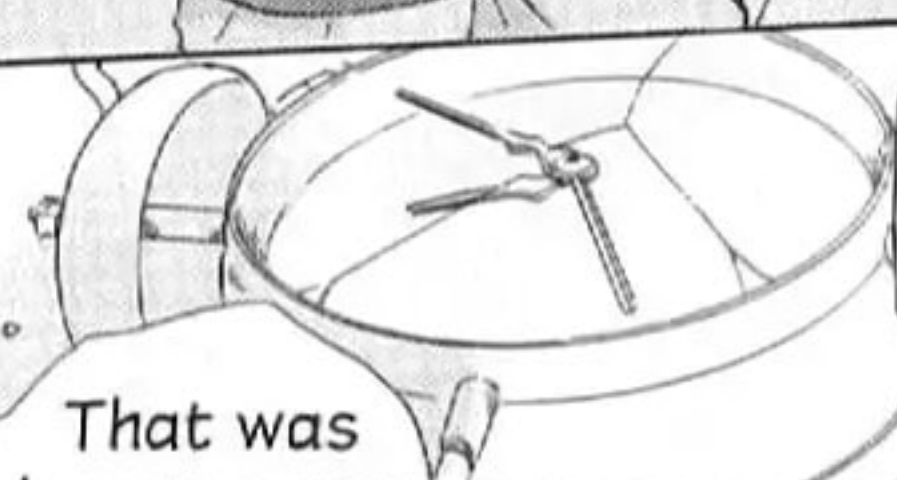
don't go riling him up!



I'm not forcing myself.

Wait....
Don't force yourself....

Hold on,



What happened?

But you were so against it before that you clocked me....

That was because you were drunk, kurokawa-san.

I was caught off guard.



What about the agreement?

Wait, just

What is this?



"You won't do anything that makes me feel uncomfortable...?"







What just
happened
—





Mean-
while....

Rick, still
in search
of the
others,
is...

No way!
You're gay?
I don't
believe you!

That what I
keep saying,
isn't it?! I'm
not interest
in girls!

**YOU
ASSHOLE!!**

fighting
with the
'Hama
girls.

You're the
one who
came
onto us!!

**UGH,
YOU'RE
A
FAIRY,
FER
REAL!
?**

Plus, I
hate girls
who wears
too much
make-up!

I told
you I just
looking for
someone!!



—wasn't
techni-
cally...

a violation...
of the
agreement....

Nope....

Their minds
are instead
occupied
with thoughts
of only
each other.

Jeez, this
why I hate
women!!

There no
point in
arguing
with me!

Of course,
our two
back home
...

have
completely
forgotten
about Rick.

That's
verbal
abuse!
Omigosh
you're
so
mean!!

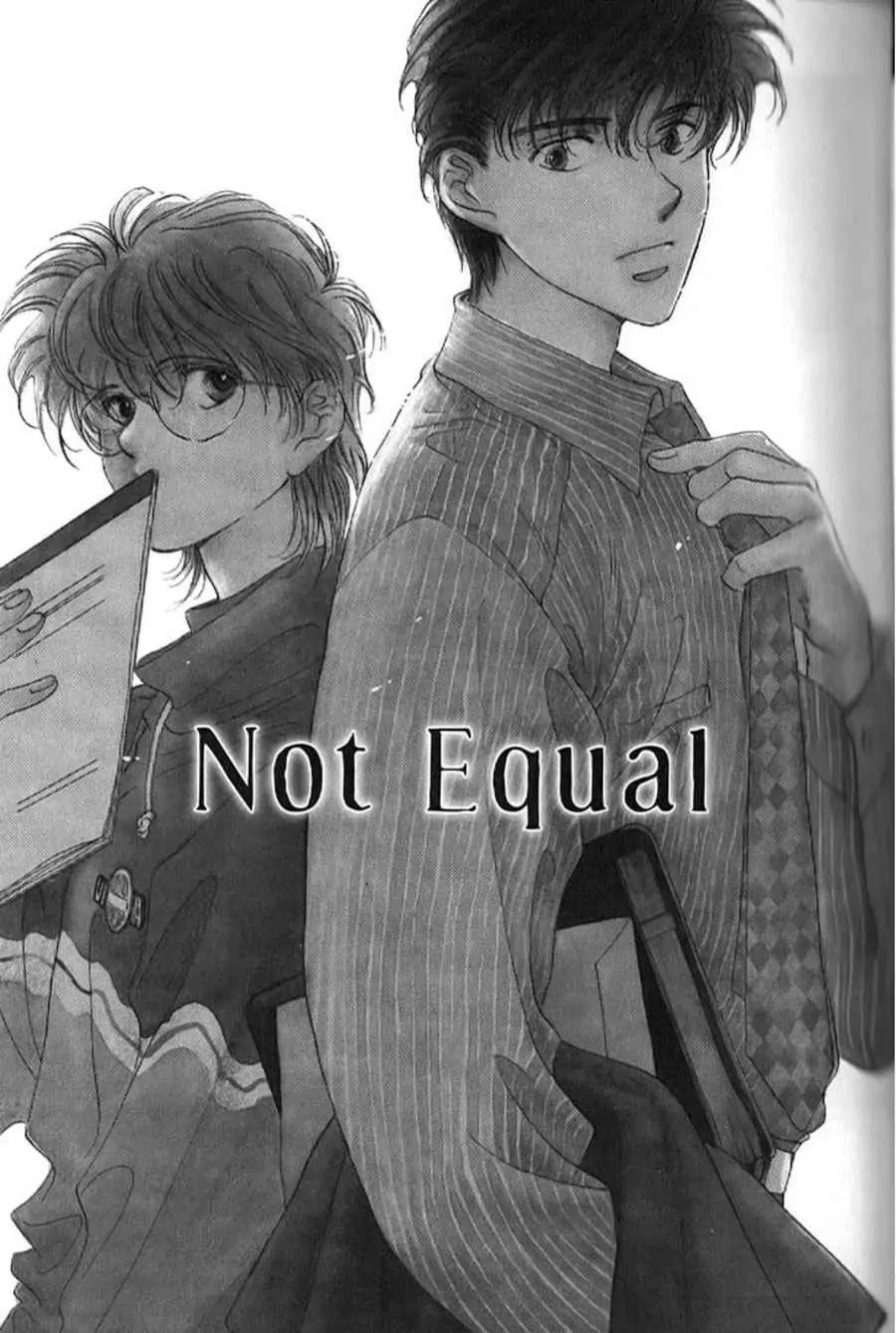
ARGH, I
GIVE UP
FOR
TODAY!
TOTAL
MISSION
FAILURE!!

WILT

This...
this
bodes
well
.....

I don't
think I
liked it

or
disliked
it....



Not Equal

But,
then—it
happened
...

...in the
dead of an
ordinary
night.

WHA—?

WHA-
WHA-
WHA—?!

U
W
A
H
?
!

UP

?!

TATSUMI-
KUN!

BANG

Who
are
you?

What the?
Um....
Er....

Wh-What
was that?
What's going
on?!!

?

DMP

Wait a
minute!

DMP

DMP

Uh—

HMM?

K-Kurokawa-
san!

Wh-What
are you
doing?

Ugh! You
reek of
beer....

Eh heh
heh, you
little
rascal~

ESCAPE

Huh?

Oh, hi—i,
Mitsuguuu!

I missed
yo—u!

MOTHER?!

M—

TEE HEE

What
are you
on
about?

Huh?

I see
you're
finally
coming
into your
own~

Look at
you~
Quite the
man, eh?

WHA—

Your
girl-
friend?

Who's
this,
now?

I UNDER-
STAND HOW
IT COULD
HAPPEN,
BUT YOU'RE
MISTAKEN!

HERE,
JUST LOOK
CLOSER!

You're ...
you're mis-
mis—

Though, I
don't see why
you wouldn't
tell Mommy
sooner....

My boy's all
grown up
and living
with such a
cute girl

JOY♡

Just
one
thing
...

TEE
HEE ♡

WAH!

AS A
COUPLE,
YOU
SHOULD BE
SLEEPING
TOGETHER!!

Why is your
girlfriend
using my
bedroom?

Huh?

NOW, IF
YOU DON'T
MIND,
STAY OUT
OF MY
ROOM!!

KICK

SLAM



Reiko Hino
(married name
Kurokawa),
age 45.

Been
married
five times.

Has caused
her son
immeasur-
able
suffering.



Mother?!
Heeey!



...It's
no use.

She's
blocked the
door....



I wonder what
brings your
honorable
mother here.

That was
just a
little
startling.

Sorry
about that.
My mother
isn't big on
common
sense....

Selfish,
uninhibited,
capricious
mother of
Mitsugu
Kurokawa.

* See
volume 1,
chapter 2,
for details.



I doubt even asking her about it tomorrow... will accomplish much....

There's no way to handle her when she's like this.



OH!

"Huh?"



Huh?



SIGH

I hate to have to ask you this, but would you mind sleeping in my room tonight?



Of course! Of course that's what you meant.

Ah, that's what you....

I mean, I'll sleep in the living room.

Th-That's not what I meant!! I don't mean it in a weird way.



...





'Night
....

BOW

G—

Good
night!



Yeah,
sure.

In that
case... I
gratefully
accept....

Um....
So, are
you
sure?

INCH
INCH



Since
then...

TMP
TMP

...



he
seems
to be
avoid-
ing
me
....

The air's
gotten
tense.



Avoiding
the issue
at hand.

...a week
has
passed,
but

for some
strange
reason



I won't
know

until
I try.

QUIET
OUT
THERE!

SOME OF
US ARE
TRYING TO
SLEEP!

AS
AZ

Jeez
....

Adding
herself to the
mix at the
worst possible
moment.

POUND

Nothing
but a
pain.
You
hear
me?

Ugh... but first
I gotta find the
guest blankets.

I'm going
to sleep...





Make
me some
coffee,
too.

Ugh... I
feel like
I got hit
by a
truck....

if you
make it
yourself.

It'll be
just as
warm
and
bitter



'Morning.



That's
because I
know you'll
tell me
about it in
excruciating
detail
anyway!

And he's not
even concerned
enough to
bother asking
what happened.

I don't recall
raising my
child to be a
smartass.

Hmm—
Resorting to
pedestrian
sarcasm now,
are we?



...Sorry,
honey....

you showed
up wasted, in
the middle of
the night, and
caused a real
stir.

I would
never say
that you
can't stay
here, but





OH, MY. ♡

Gracious,
forgive me.
I had no
idea.

You can
call me
Reiko, by
the way. ♡

Reiko-san
it is, then.
♡

GRR

I'm Tomoe
TATSUMI.

Pleased
to meet
you.

You're
his
tenant?



DON'T YOU
ARE TRY
TO BLAME
THE WIND!!

...

?

But for you
to suddenly have
a roommate...
are the winds
of change
a-blowing?



The only
usable space
is the tatami
room you're
using for
storage....

It's a little
small, but
it'll have
to do.

Very
well,
then.

If this is
how it's
going to
be....



Excuse
me?

...



so what
do you
do? Slam
your door
in mine!!

It would
mean the
world to me
to see a
friendly
face,

Oh, no.

But I've
left my
husband
because of
our fight.

She's not
thinking of
moving in
indefinitely,
is she?!

By "left"
him, you
can't
mean...

that you're
divorcing
again, and now
you want to
live here. Say
it isn't so.



Now that
that's settled
I'll just make
myself at
home.

Thank
you for
your
hospitality
♡

**WHAT'S
SETTLED?
THERE
WILL BE
NO
SETTLING
HERE!**



**I AM
NOT OK
WITH
THIS!!**

It's still
too early
to say.

Again.... Well,
excuse me.
HMPH.

I wouldn't go
so far as to
put it that
way—yet.



YOU KNOW THE
ONE YOU'RE
INCONVENIENC-
ING HERE IS
TATSUMI-KUN.

SO, FOR
ONCE, JUST
GO HOME
AND WORK
THINGS
OUT.

Uh?

Um, well,
if I had to
choose, I'd
probably
say....

Is that
your
type,
too?

Women
who
suffer in
silence!!

DON'T
TAKE HER
SERIOUSLY!
YOU'LL ONLY
ENCOURAGE
HER!!

T-Tatsu-
mi-kun!

What a
sweet child
you are.

Ooh!
♡

I wish I'd
had you
instead.♡

It's no
inconvenience
to me,
Kurokawa

You and your
mother haven't
seen each other
in a while, right?
Don't worry
about me.

Damn it all—he's
right. I'm the only
one who doesn't
want her here.
I'm the one who's
being selfish!! Still....

Wait a minute....

HUFF

So, I'm moving for now.

I trust you have no further objections? Mitsugu?!

I'll be staying here in spite of my bad egg of a son.

Oh, fine. I see how it is.

Could it be that....

DEFEAT

?

Oh, fine.... Understood. Just do whatever you want.

But you have to clean out the tatami room yourself!

Ah, Sure!!

Tatsumi-kun, ♡ I'd like for us to be the best of friends while I'm here, 'kay?

Why don't you go clean your room? Now!

...



I was going to do so without you telling me toll

HO
HO
HO
HO
HO
HO

Let's go!!
Time to cross swords in the first round against my hubby.

PUNCH
PUNCH

SI-GH

...

Ha
ha!



Yeah
....

Lovers' spats are Olympic sports to her.

I would expect no less from Reiko-san.



It's sad,
but true.

Either way,
you won't get
what you want,
so no harm in
letting her stay.

STAY
AND

Plus, she's
not the problem
as long as the
agreement is in
effect.

Don't
sweat it. She's
never in one
place long.

Knowing
how she is,
she's liable to
surprise you.

Huh?!

Or,

you could
just tell her
the truth.

YA
DON'T
SAY!

Why, you
little
rascal!

That's
just too
funny!
♡

KA-BOP

Mommy!
♡
The truth
is I sort of
turned into
a homo.

TEE
HEE
♡

The
chance it
would go
that easy is
slim...

...
There's
no
way....

I will
concede it
worked
with you,
but...

MAYBE.

After all
you've done for
her, you never
know. She might
just give you
her support.

left you
feeling
optimistic,
right?

But you
said that
trip to
Hakkejima

I
guess
....

coming
out to
her....

You know
it's not that
I haven't
thought
about

It's just
that this
isn't the
right time
for it...
...with
my
feelings
still
one-sided
and all.

I can't say
anything
for sure

But like
everything
else,

Hmm...?

...

Instead, we just
let the days
slip by....

Both of us are
refusing to
touch upon the
subject directly,

as though it
were a sore,
swollen spot.

...to
make
myself
out of the
problem. That
ass....

Can I hang
out with you
guys at least once
while Reiko-san
is there?

I am
such a
huge
fan of
hers!

...like it will
undo what
happened.

But I really
don't want this
to end up being
a long, drawn
out campaign.

We need
to discuss
this openly,

at least
once.

...
Hmm?





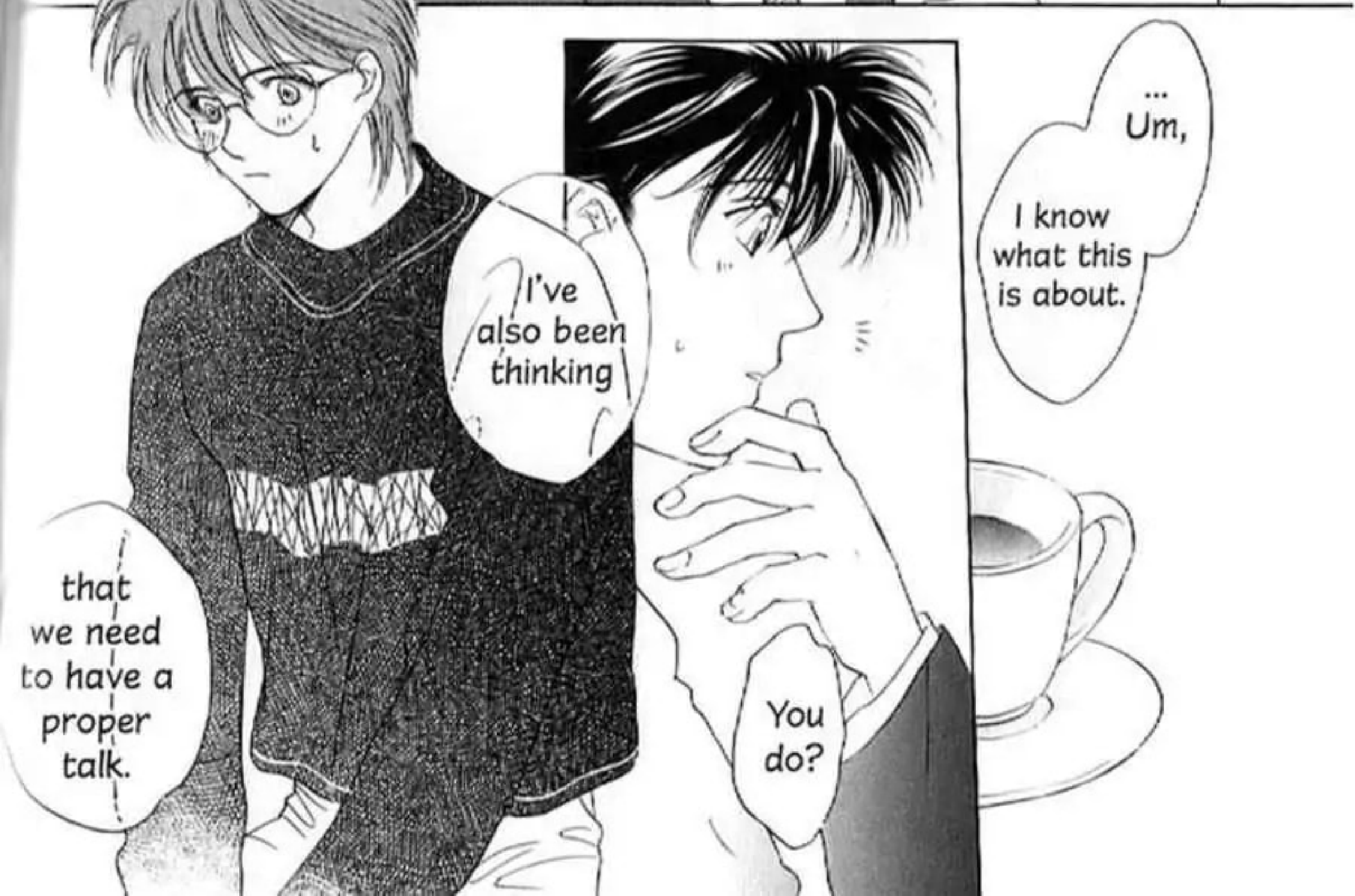
Not
at all
....

Sorry I
cajoled you
into joining
me....



doesn't
give us much
chance to
really talk.

It's just
that having
my mother
at home



I've
also been
thinking

You
do?

...
Um,

I know
what this
is about.

that
we need
to have a
proper
talk.





...that's
actually the
third time you've
kissed me,
Kurokawa-san!



After
that, I was
thinking,

and I...
realized...



I...

was also
somewhat
responsible
for that
one.

KEEL

Seems
like a lot...
in such a
short period.

And if you
count Rick...
I've been
kissed four
times....



I
wasn't...

uncom-
fortable
with it.



!



But this
last time...

was
different
from the
other times
....







I'm
meeting
my husband
here. ♡
To talk
on neutral
ground.

M-Mother!!

W-Wow! You
don't say!
What a
coincidence!

We just ran
into each other
outside and
decided to talk
in here, too....

What are
you doing
here?



And
you're
talking
in here
about
WHAT?



Don't try
to hide it
from me.

Wait,
what did
you want
to know?

Huh?
What?
You want
to know
what?

INNOCENT
INNOCENT

RUM-

AHH!

I'm late,
I'm late!

DASH
DASH
DASH

Ah,
that
must
be the
place!

coffee house
SBR

SLIDE

Let's
see
....

You
completely
misjudged
her, Isogaiiii!

BECAUSE I
OVERHEARD

ALMOST
EVERY
WORD.

BLE



What part of this is supposed to be calming to me?!

Mother, please, calm down!!

HOW DARE YOU TRY TO DECEIVE YOUR OWN MOTHER?!



when you were actually leading an alternative lifestyle?

Mitsugu-kun and Reiko-san. That looks oo like...

??

You had the impudence to present yourselves as landlord and tenant to me,

Ah!!

What a do! recently a violent crime took the lives of many...



YOU TWO, FIND ANOTHER TIME FOR CEREMONIOUS HOW-DO-YOU-DOS!!!

Might I ask what the problem seems to be?

Not at all. It pleases me to see you in good health, Mitsugu-kun.

SLAVE

Akeno-san, good timing!!

Thank you for your care and support of my mother! I wonder if you'd mind lending me a hand!



I can't, I
tell you!

Just
start by
calming
down....

What's
going
on?



Now that I
think of it, my
horoscope
said today
would be a
black day!!

I assumed it
referred to
my husband's
roving
eye, but

never... never
would I have
imagined such
horror as this
waiting for me!



POINT

You!



And
you!





I wonder if one of you might be so good as to explain this to me.

Easier said than done.

Sitting, for some reason, in HUMBLE JAPANESE STYLE



Moist towel

Now, then



What does that matter now?!

GLARE

HA
HA

Your lechery is nothing compared to my son's sudden homosexuality!

Reiko-san,

what happened to our plans to meet and talk things over?



I've been the only one to say "I love you," and that's it.

What I said about us being landlord and tenant was true.

Listen... I'll try to put this as plainly as I can.





Wh—

What?



It didn't sound to me like your love was unrequited.

Yes?



But, Mitsugu,

back in the coffee shop....



—the reaction I was getting was

...It ...

Hey... She's right.

PRETTY DARN GOOD!!

Mother interrupted us, but—

it didn't... did it

was I on the road to victory?



WE'RE NOT!!

Come on, cough it up.

It's OK, honey. You don't have to be shy....

It won't shock me to hear that you're having sex. Just be honest with me.

Which isn't to say I wouldn't like to!!



What I
said...



GLANCE



And if
what I
confessed
is indicative
of love...



...before, in
the coffee
shop, was all
true.



...then it's
probably
accurate to
say... that
I've fallen in
love... with
Kurokawa-san
....

Don't
worry about
a thing!!
Auntie will
pay for it!!

Then you
must come to
Morocco with
your Auntie
Reiko!!

Ta—

Reiko-san,
slow down!!
A sex
change won't
make their
marriage
legal!!

Morocco?

YOU GUYS
ARE GETTING
A LITTLE
CARRIED
AWAY, DON'T
YOU THINK?!

AND DON'T
DISTURB
US DURING TURNING
POINTS IN OUR
RELATIONSHIP!!

WAIT,
WAIT,
ARE
YOU
SERIOUS?!

HUH?

I might be
misinterpreting
my feelings.

I mean
it's
possible,
but

it's not
certain....

Ah....
No, it's
not....

BUT,
BUT,
BUT—

Tatsumi-
kun, is it
really
so?

RUSH

LET'S
GET A HOLD
OF
OURSELVES,
OK?



This may
just be the
illusion
of love.

is creating
a bias in my
judgment.

It may
just be...
that the
kiss



Sooner
or later, I
could realize
I was
wrong,

and even
though I'm
genuinely
fond of
you,

I might
grow to
resent
you one
day....

...it's
OK...

if it's
just an
illusion,

Tatsumi-kun
is...





...afraid of something....

and if you ever do resent me, it's OK to say so....

What you feel for me in the present is more important

He's so honest about it that he's being too honest.

than what you may think of me in the future,

because in the present I love you, Tatsumi-kun.

how can you be so sure of what you feel?

Kurokawa-san,

I'm just being open with you about my feelings....

HMM...

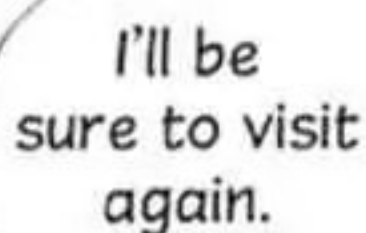
I don't claim to be sure of anything.

...

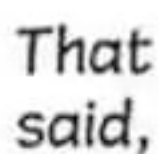




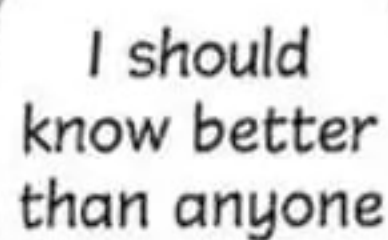
A normal sort of visit.



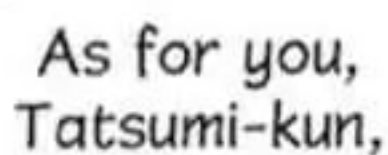
I'll be sure to visit again.



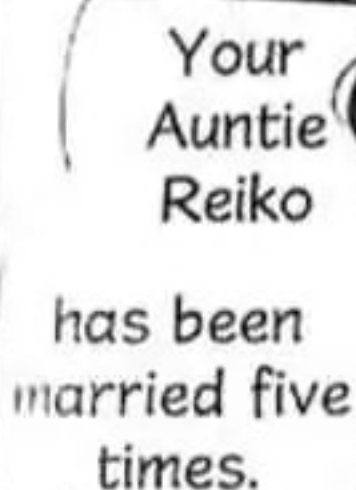
That said,



I should know better than anyone



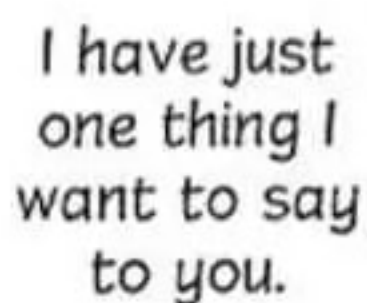
As for you, Tatsumi-kun,



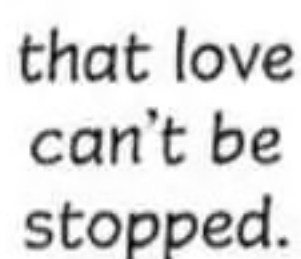
Your Auntie Reiko has been married five times.

Did you know that?

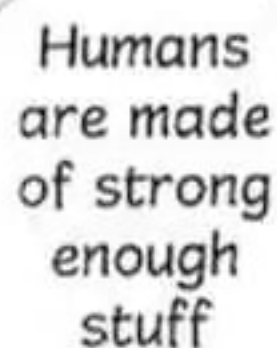
Ah!



I have just one thing I want to say to you.

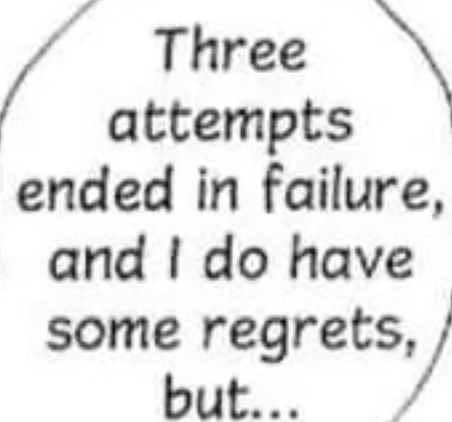


that love can't be stopped.

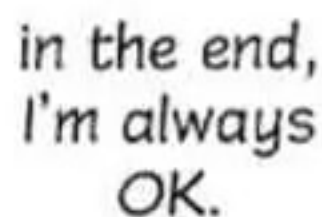


Humans are made of strong enough stuff

to get them past the things that worry and hurt.



Three attempts ended in failure, and I do have some regrets, but...



in the end, I'm always OK.

• Widowed once.





Hmm, I guess.

Yeah, you're right.



Well, with our feelings out in the open,

there's really nothing to hold us back from talking.



I... had wanted to discuss things more in depth—

There was so much... I thought I might get from discussing them....



Can I kiss you?



Tatsumi-kun?

Yes?





What
do you
think
will
become
of those
two?

Their
problems seem
proportional to
their desire to
sort through
them.

Frankly,
I'm still in
shock.

That's
not what
I meant....

Hey,
hey.

What?

SQUEEZE

TEE
HEE

Ever since
he was little,
Mitsugu has had
a soft spot for
that type....

I was just
thinking—
that kid is
awfully
adorable.



But don't you think he seemed a bit scatter-brained?

A bit.

OOH! I can see P.D.A.* through their window.

*Public Displays of Affection



HMM

There's going to be some tough times ahead for them, though....

But it's just like my Mitsugu

to draw a yes out of him.



Oh, well. No need to worry.

No?

SHUT



VR
OOH

OH, YES....

I could be wrong, but don't you think he's come to pretty solid terms with it already?

I'll go to great lengths

to see that my son comes to terms with his homosexuality.

How
rude!

You think I
don't know my
own son? I'm
greatly offended
by your
presumption!

Oh, and by
the way, I
don't consider
our issue
resolved.

*I thought you
said that it
didn't matter
anymore.*

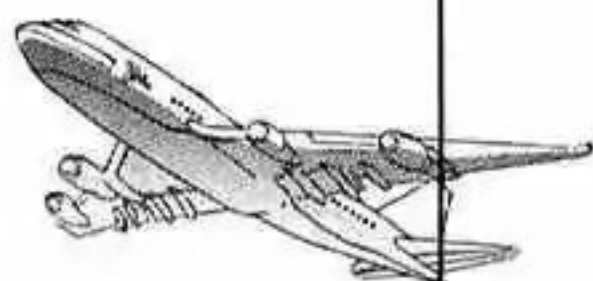
Man, I
should've
kept my
mouth
shut.



Block Break



Attention,
please.
Attention...



Typhoons
come crashing
in during the
summer.

GLINT

The only
question is:
how big will
they be?

Looks like
the return
address on this
postcard

is the only
thing I have
to go by....

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL
Narita-Terminal



I'll
make do
somehow.

Still not
time to go
home?

You seem
like good
mood.

That's
because

I'm doing
what I love
most in the
world.

Why
don't you
try lending
me a hand?

...Rick, can
I assume
you're
very bored
right now?

Too much
technological
pursuit at
once, and I
get sleepy.

SIGH

Portable
Tetris,
which is
no longer
available
anywhere.

Well,

If I can,
yes.

This the
kind of
work you
want to do
for living?

Hmm...
Tomoe?

In that
case,

you
should
come to
America.

You
would like
America.
♡

Massachusetts
and California
has big
technological
institutes.

The streets
is lined
with famous
schools.

M. I. T.

Ooh—♡

Now I
follow
you.

But that's
not all,
you know.

America
also have
NASA.♡

The
schools
here are
good
enough
for me.

That
does
sound
great,
but—

RODDA
RRR

GEE
WHIZ?

B-DMP
B-DMP

NASA?♡

The
Shangri-la of
engineering

N—

You so
smart,
could
really
do it.

Not just
dream
for you,
Tomoe!

GLEE
GLEE

What a
dream job
that would
♡ be! ♡

KRAK

!

KAH!

That why
you and me
should leave
for Ameri—

WHAT
THE—?!

FVIP





Tomoe
gived me
cold
shoulder,
too.

HMPH



Ooya-san
quick to
block my
move this
time.



but there's
something
different
about those
two lately.

I can't
put my
finger
on it,



I better
be on my
guard.
or....

Hm?

I wonder
what
going on

Ooya-san
seem to be
growing
bigger balls.



Uh...



PHIL?!

Rick!

GLOW ***

Wow,
dinner smells
delicious! ♡

TASUKETEEE!
(Help)

LAM

I'm going
to dig i—

This
looks
ready

SAVE
MEEE!

SH
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH

I BEING
CHASED!

Wh—
Whoa?!

Who
Who

...Save
you from
what?

Tasu-
kete!

If you're
trying to
hide, start
by not
screaming.

SHH

SKID

SLAM

WAH!

What on earth
is it now?!

Rick, why
are you running
away?!!







GRAB

?!

Because *this* is who I'm seeing now!!

Which means you're just a thorn in everyone's ass, so go home!!

!

But it makes no difference anymore!!

?

Wants to voice his objections, but doesn't know what's going on, and therefore can't object.

...

Too bad, so sad.

Uh?

...Hey?

SLACK

Hey...



STARE

WHO ARE
YOU CALLING
AN UNDERAGE
GIRL?!

You've been
away too
long.

SIGH

When did you
develop a thing for
underage girls?

IS 18!
AND
MALE!!

...Really?

Huh?
What's
going on?

SMILE

WARP

WARP

WARP

WARP

WARP

TRUDGE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE

TRUDGE

TRUDGE
TRUDGE

Get it
now?

FWIP





I even so, didn't think he clingy enough to follow me to Japan.

I dumped him because he so clingy.

How do I explain this? Is it possible to be loved too much?

And?

Maybe reason he kind of weird like that

is because he make living as struggling artist.

You used Tatsumi-kun as part of some kind of pretense, didn't you? What did you say about him?

Hmm?

We saw each other for short time only,

but he becomed strangely attach to me.

And now for something completely different—

DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

GO AFTER
THAT GUY
AND TELL
HIM YOU
TAKE IT
BACK!!

HOW
COULD
YOU SAY
THAT?!

shake
shake

Huh?

DID YOU LIE
AND SAY
YOU WERE
GOING OUT
WITH HIM?!

WHAT
ARE
YOU
HIDING
?!

That doesn't
give you the
freedom to
involve him
in your
problems!!

and
I love
Tomoe
is truth.

This way,
look like he
gived up and
goed home...

What
difference
it make if
I do?

GRAPPLE

GRAPPLE

GRAPPLE

C'mon, I'm
hungry.
Let's eat.

Aww, look
at this wasted
meat

Hey, guys,
what does
it really
matter?

But he
maybe still
wandering
around
outside.

Can't I
stay night
here?

What?

GET OUT
OF MY
HOUSE!!







WHAT—?
HE STILL
HERE?!

Then,
what?

Are you
saying he
was all night
in the hall?

Whoa



You do
realize
this isn't
our
problem?

Go figure
it out on
your own.

don't
make
sound
easy.



I agree.
This has
nothing to
do with us.

YES.

Wise
Solution

I say the best
solution is to hand
him over, on the
condition that the
stalker takes him
and leave.



If you really
think about it,
though, he not
come all the way
from America
if he easily
discouraged
type.

So what
the plan?

Why don't
you call
the
police?

But he not
really do
anything
wrong....





What
you
talking
about?

WHY
ME?!

If you just want
to put on a show,
you don't really
need Tatsumi-kun.
Anyone will work!

So use
this guy!
Use him!!

THIS
ISN'T
FUNNY!!

WAH

NOW, WAIT
A MINUTE,
KUROKAWA!!

You could have
broken up with
Tatsumi-kun
last night and
started dating
Isogai this
morning!!

WAH

WAH

WAH

What... exactly
do you have in
mind, Rick...

UHH...

Shibuya on
weekend is so
much fun! I
take you,
let's go!

But...
it's just
that you're
the safest
choice.

Watch who
you volunteer
for unpleasant
tasks....

URK



What're
you doing
out here?

CHI-KAT

Phill!

Rick....

Y'know, I'd love
to stay and chat, but
I'm on a date now. ♡
Catch you later!

...

OK.

I need change
clothes, so
let's stop by
my place.



I almost
positive Phil
will follow
after us.
SOOO—

And if not,
then all
the better.

Why should
we help
you?!!



—just keep eye
on him and try
to no cause
suspicion, would
you? Thanks!!



COFF

I do
speak
Japanese,
sirs.



...

But what
are we
supposed
to do?

Uh...
OK.
First,
we buy a
Japanese-
English
diction-
ary...

We can't
even com-
municate.

Because
otherwise, you
has no idea
what me and
Tomoe doing.

I would
follow along
if I was you

HIGH



P-Point
taken..

Rick was
using English,
so I just
followed suit.

No
reason
....

Then,
how
come
....

WHOA...

He
really
does.

Huh?!

Well...
sure looks
that way,
doesn't it?

NOOOO!
CRAASH
HOW
COULD
anyone
even THINK
THAT?!

really a
couple?

That
little
weasel

Ah—

I see....

So, are
those two...

What could
have brought on
this unhealthy
interest?

I can't
understand it.
He's not Rick's
type at all....

Hmm...
unhealthy?

someone
HAS TO
STOP HIM!!
**YES, YES,
it's very
unhealthy!**
CRAASH

Back in
America, he
was constantly
switching
partners
....

Rick
used to
be a slut.



Ah!

This is too fishy....

I need to see for myself.

If only he could see it as clearly as I do.



Yet, I was the only one who ever truly made him happy.



Oh-ho, now I get it. You're the town idiot.



Whaddya know, he really is going to stalk them.



But is a ruse like this really enough

to discourage someone so determined?

It's too late for any doubts.

All we can do now is follow him.



Umm... I
really don't
know that
much about
Shibuya.

So, Tomoe,
where you
want go?

OK, then
just leave
everything
to me.

We need
to look like
having fun.

Y—

Yeah, I
guess.



Uh... well...
how to
explain it....

We're
voyeurs.

Um....

May I ask
why you
two are
here?

Lousette'2



This would look good on you.

really think so?

STAAARE

Hmm

Probably because they're on a date, huh?

...They seem to be having a good time huh?

UGH

Rick is purchasing an incense set....

I didn't know he was into that.

Uh... great

Hmm?

What?!

... What's with you?



Just thinking
how much fun
we having.
♡

What?

I feel kind
of grateful
to him,
anyway.

I no can
honestly
thank Phil,
but—

Hmm?

...Can I
ask you
something,
Rick?

I agree
that he is
strange and all,
but-he likes you
so much that he
came all the
way from
America to
see you.
Doesn't
that kind
of... warm
your heart?

You mean
...Phil?

Why did
you break
up with
the guy?

Yeah.

I have right
to choose,
same as
them.

...

I don't
know what
you talking
about.

It not like I
can possibly
date every
guy who
likes me.

...
Sorry,
that was
a dumb
question.

AH HA

HA O-Of
course
you do.

while Phil
want
ommitment.

but I want
freedom to
see other
people,

...it not
like I hate
Phil,

Hmm
....

Umm
...

I see.

So it would
be nice if
he'd just
give up,
huh?

well,

I doubt
that
ever
going to
happen

...





What do
you say we
start inching
closer?

Like to that planter
behind them.

Not
from this
distance,
anyway....



Ahl



Don't be
mad, Tomoe.
You just seem
so cold and
distant lately.

Plus, I has
a question.

Shh!

Not
so fast
...

Rick!!



Maybe I
wrong, but...
has something
happen between
you and
Ooya-san?

BLUSH

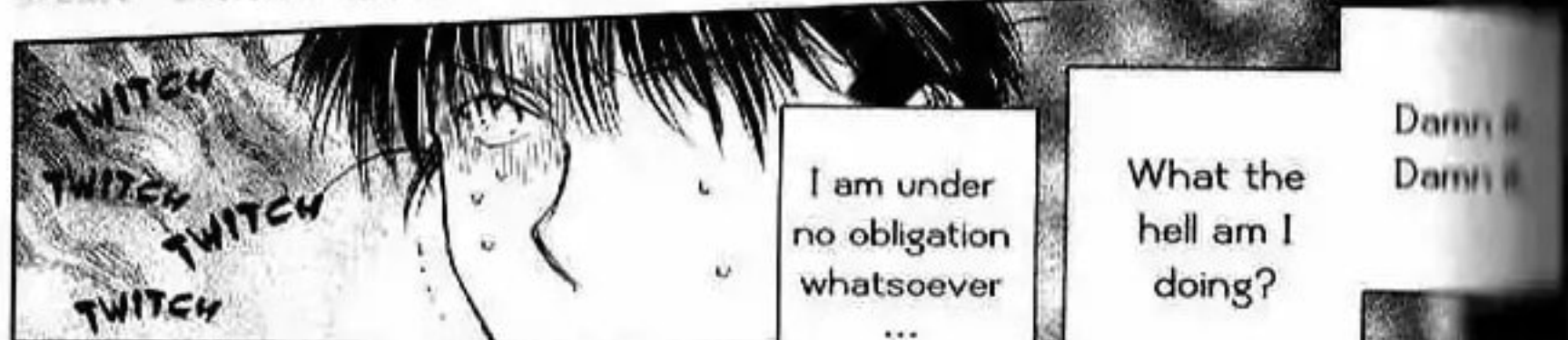


What's the point
of just narrating
what he sees and
doing nothing to
stop it?

Why
are you
like this?

Arm
should
whip
some
ear
count

Attach
yourself
emotionally
for a moment,
please.



I am under
no obligation
whatsoever
...

What the
hell am I
doing?

Damn it
Damn it



I feel
sick

just thinking
of possibility
that Ooya-san
has sex with
you first!

I
knowed
it.

Ever since
Yokohama, I
knowed you
was acting
strange.

...to help
this asshole
to the point
of debating
whether or
not I should

B
L
U
S
S
H



GRAB

!!

I'm not
the one we
should be
concerned
about right
now!

Hmm
....



You love
Ooya-san,
Tomoe?

So?



wait,
....

I-I don't
know
....

You don't
know?

Then, does
that mean
you not
done *it* yet?



Hmm
....



?!

Huh?

In
that
case
...
want
to do it
with me?



Mm—



...



Why?
oh, why,
Phil-kun?!

Why?!

DETACHED

OH!

Kiss,
one
count.

...Huh?



...!!

Unf
....



!!!

HOW 'BOUT
STOPPING
THAT NOW,
YOU LITTLE
PUNK?!!

Stop—

B
O

5



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF



Yes—got
him in one!!



I don't
really get
it, but
i'm moved
all the
same!!

In it's own
special way, that
was beautiful,
Phil-kun.

That was
beautiful
....



End
of
log.

Over
and
out.

OK



Rick takes a
boot to the
head and eats
shit in Japan,
one count.



Huh?

WHIPP
WHIRR

Hmm?



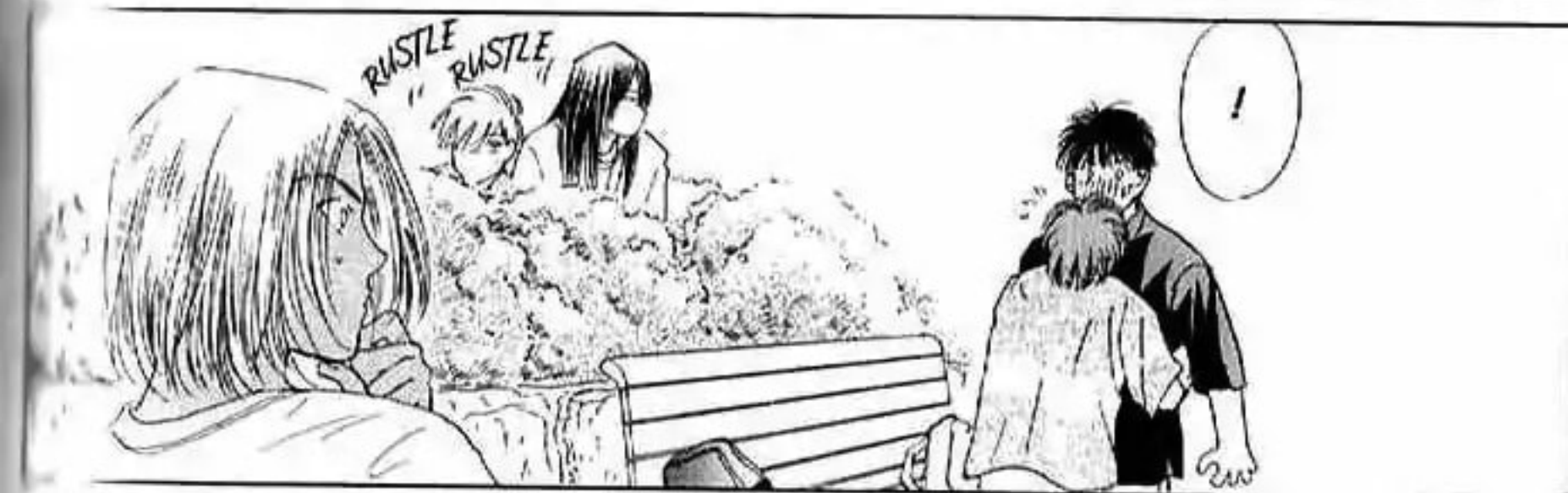
I am
king

Kuroka
wa-san!

WHIPP
WHIRR



OW
....



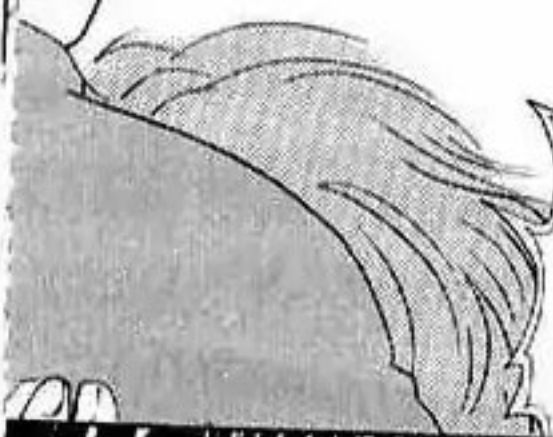
!



AHH! AHH!
FOILED
AGAIN!!

KARMA IS
A BITCH.

I knew it.
It was a
lie....



I wasn't lying.
I really am in love
with him....

Why would you
go so far as to use
a guy who's already
taken?

It's not like that
It's not like that
at all



Rick...

love...
it seems
....

...I'm
sorry...
I...

Kurokawa-san
is the one
I...



Huh?



!



Um...

I'm
sorry....

Really,
I am.

...
Cheer up.

I must look like
such an idiot.

Well, yeah.

...

FWUMP

Remember, you've got
no money, no place to stay,
and I'm letting you sleep here
out of the goodness
of my heart.

OK, OK.

Beggin' yer
pardon....

You didn't
have to
agree so
quickly!

Hey, that
was mean!

You want
me to kick
you out?!

...underneath it
all, you're an
interesting person.

See this line?
Cross it and you're toast!

Why don't you
get it, Rick?

Just that...

I could ask you
the same thing!!

No one recognizes
or appreciates it
more than I do,

so enough
games. Let's—

you have a
cruel side and a
sad side, but...

Nothing
I do ever
deters you.

What are you
trying to prove?



Yeah...
umm....

SQUEEZE

...It
seems
that
way....

What you
said in the
park... was
that—

Was it
the
truth?

Huh?

Oh, no....
Nothing
like that.

It wasn't
just an excuse
to turn Rick
down?

So, you
really
meant it?!

To be
honest, it
took me by
surprise,
too....

Because, when
Rick asked me
about it, I
really didn't
know....

Thank
you,
God.
♡

Th—



But when he
kissed me...
somehow, in
that instant,

I guess it
struck me...
that as much
as I care for
Rick...

It's completely
different from
what I feel for you,
Kurokawa-san.

And once I
came to that
conclusion...

I thought,
yeah, it's
true... you
know....

No, I
understand.

...I'm
sorry.

I'm not
making
any sense.

Umm...
what I
mean is...

!





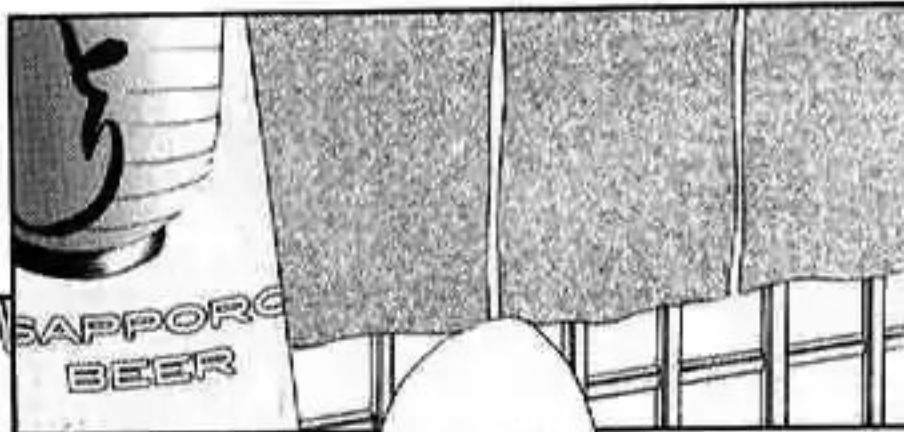
...for some
reason,
just now...

my heart
skipped a
beat....

...

...

...
Mine,
too.



Heeey,
buddy!

No man
should drink
alooone.

What's up?
Wait, lemme
guess. Girlfriend
dumped ya.



But that still leaves you empty-handed, eh?

HA HA HA HA

Oh!

Nope, the exact opposite! For my friend, anyway.

I'm drinking to celebrate the fruition of his love.



They're living together in a relationship that's still unconsumated. My friend and his new love are both men.

Oh!!

Hold on, pops. I haven't told you the real kicker yet.

Oh?



Buddy, you can't let this happen!!

If you're really his friend, you gotta stop him!!

My little boy is finally growing up and leaving the nest.

Ahh, I'm overcome with such emotion.

But tonight is certain to be the night their minds and bodies become one



and his relatives and everyone he knows will talk about it behind his back—

and he'll never have any kids of his own,

It's not that, but just think how his parents will feel,

You got something against gays?!

What?

Probably,

but...



...they'll
be OK,

because
they're
happy.



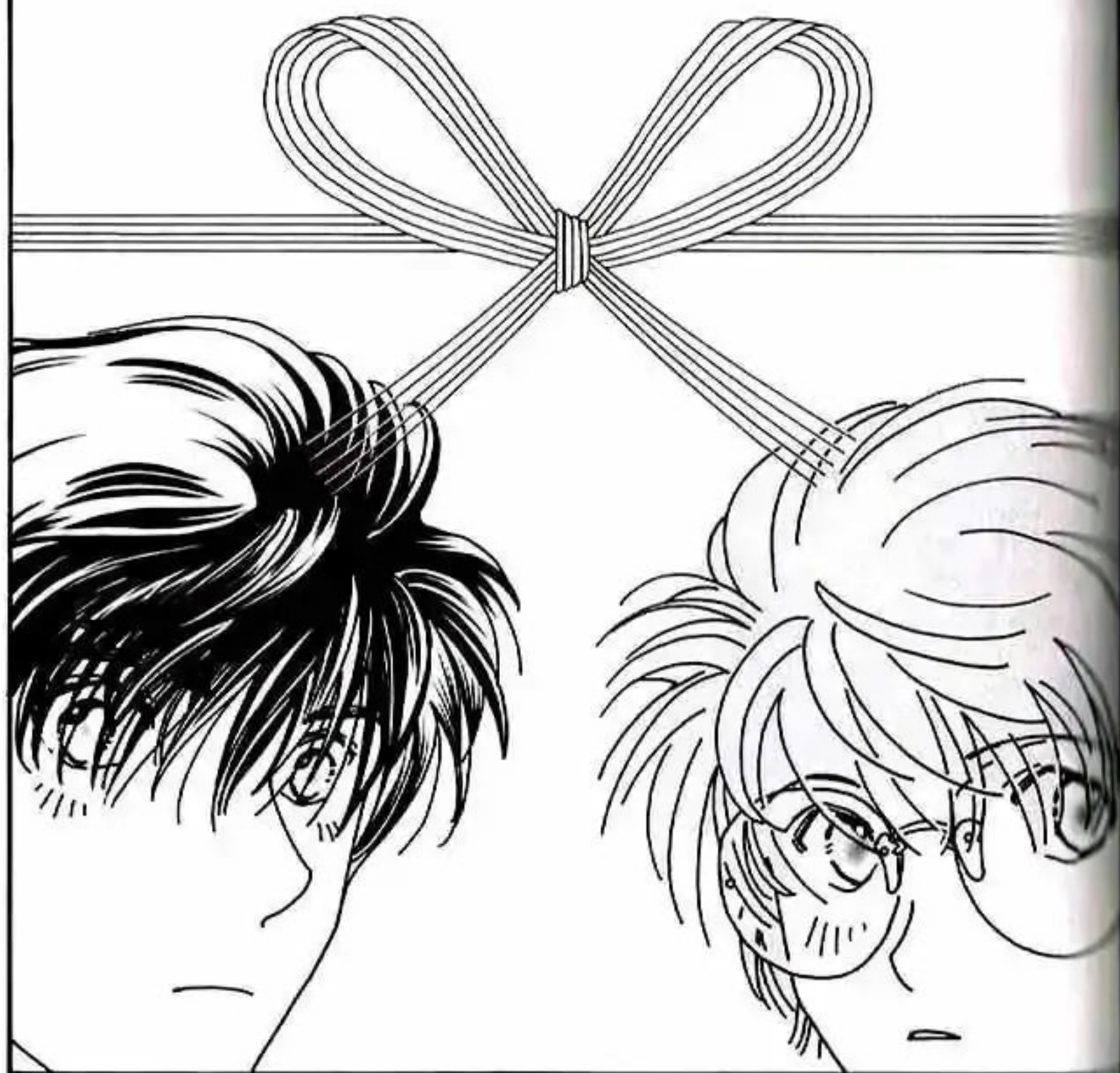
...re one
of those
illigient
drunks,
huh. /

Sure. /

Let me
explain to
you the
meaning
of life...

That's not
the point,
buddy! /

MEAGER GIFT FROM THE AUTHOR



I even though
my debut felt
like a freak
stroke of luck,
it makes me so
happy to be
given the chance
to continue
drawing and
writing.

Somehow,
the series
has made it
to a second
volume....

YAY YAY YAY YAY



Greetings,
everyone.

I humbly
thank you
for deigning
to read my
work.



And
even more
thanks
if you
BOUGHT
it and
read it.



Author
self-
portrait



but
there was
something
else I
wanted to
try instead.

Since there
were 19 pages
left over this
time, I thought
I might just
draw a short
side story.

Moving
on....

You, the
readers, are
the ones
who make it
possible.

You have
my thanks.



so I want
to show you
what goes
into their
making.

It has been
the rise and
fall of such
ideas that has
brought me
this far,

That
something
was a rejected
idea, like on the
title page.



There needs to be extenuating circumstances to drive the plot forward.

I know!

How about...

You suggested I come up with something to bring them closer,

Right....

STEP 1: THE
THE EDIT

since the alpha is weak and not pursuing the beta aggressively....



—they fall.

GRAB

?!

—just as the fight comes to a head—

AH!!

I'M GOING TO KILL YOOOU!!

How about

—taking one of these routine scenes, and—

W A H H !

Author's Note * This was the original design for Kurokawa's balcony, but it's going to change after this volume. The balconies visible in volume 1 were the same as here, but were on another side of the building, not on Kurokawa's



HOW
ABOUT A
HAND
HERE?!!

WAH!

Souichi
cries out
for help.



OH, NO,
THIS IS
TERRIBLE!

Tatsumi-kun
is paralyzed.

WHAT
WILL I
DO?!



He can
only save
the one he
loves most!!

ULTIMATE
DECISION



Ahh!

Tatsumi-kun
knows it's too
late to save
both of them!!



Well, I
have to do
something—

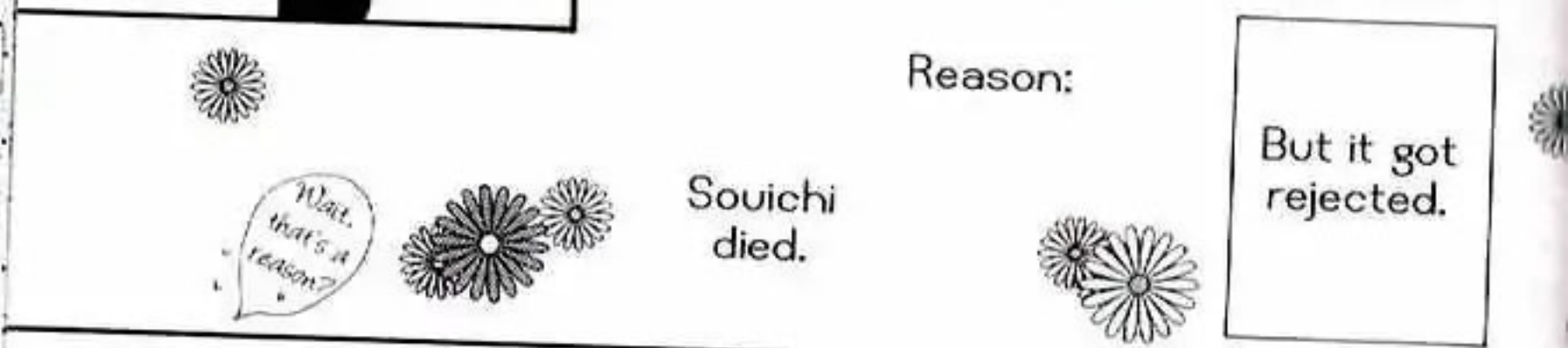
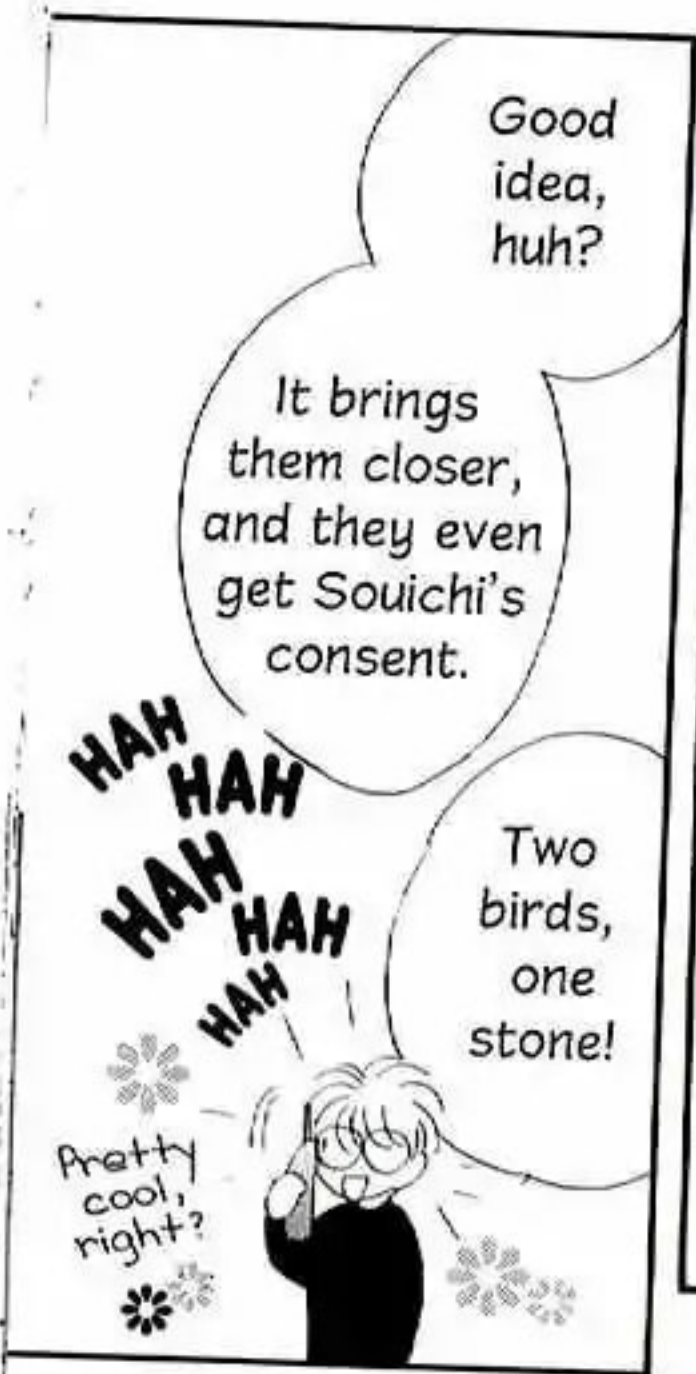
GRAB

UW
HAA



Ummm...
ummm...
ummm....

Hurry...
up!!



A set-up in a romantic comedy always begins

with the protagonists engaged in a dull, everyday activity—

I feel like stealing a little kiss....

I have a suggestion for your manga.

Older brother. Father of one. A.K.A.: Anii.

To clear up any possible misunderstanding, my brother is not a manga author. (Takanaga, 2004)
Already with an indie fan following, Anii has finally debuted in a commercial publication (namely, this one).

STEP 2:

TALK TO OLDER BROTHER.

Your manga is a romantic comedy, right?

There needs to be more set-ups.

Great, I appreciate your help.

So, what is it?

But Anii, the story is already nothing but set-ups.

What the—?

Souichi-kun, what are you doing out there?!!

You were just about to do something nefarious!

I saw you!

And better yet, how did you get there?!!

UWHAHA?!!

—when suddenly things go awry.



I see

...In that case...



Tomoe, is that true?

It's true, it's true.

I was doing anything I swe



WAH

BOOM

FAREWELL !!



But it got rejected.

Reason: The scenario doesn't really fit with the manga.

...



HAH pretty cool, right? HAH HAH HAH

Yeah, that's cool.



FWEEEEEE

FLAP FLAP

I didn't know Souichi-kun was that kind of character...

If I could
do that,
wow!

Keep up the
good work, and
soon you'll
reach volume
100!

Do you think
I should try
to draw 100
volumes?

Jeez,
what a crazy
story it would
be by then.



STEP 3: TALK TO
FRIENDS.

*This is
a little
off the
topic of
rejected
ideas,
but
....*

Doh, that's
good news!
Congratulations!



Volume 2 is
coming out
soon! ♡



Well, for
instance
....

Crazy.
like how?

Boss.

Around volume
82, Souichi
would be in
control of the
Chinatown
underground.

The
transaction in
question will
take place
tonight at
ten.

VERY
GOOD

CHOPPA

CHOPPA
CHOPPA
CHOPPA

And
I would
be the
beautiful
sidekick.

A CHA
CHA
CHAN
DA
DA
DA
AAA
DA B
LA E
Theme
song.

In volume 78,
Isogai would
become like
F.B.I. or
something—



Meanwhile,
Kurokawa-san
would be collapsed
somewhere in the
middle of Siberia.



Tatsumi-kun...
I'll... save...
y....

By volume 1
Tatsumi-kun
abducted by
mysterious
extraterrestrials
who use him as
a plaything.

WAH!



Somebody, help me!



Reason:
My editor-san
said I shouldn't
be drawing
homos in
space.

Rejected.

Why
not?



Me, too!



and these 12 soldiers
will come out, and
it'll turn out that
humans are being
ruled by a higher
form of life, and....



Those are the
kinds of stories
I'm into!

That's...
something I
would so
read!

And if it goes over
100 volumes, Rick will
ride on a shuttle to
the Swan constellation
Deneb, where a
doorway to another
dimension will open
up, and Rick will be
transported,



I know, I know
that this series
doesn't really
have any of
those kinds
of scenes,
but....

I KNEW
THIS
WOULD
COME UP!

...was what I
thought....

AAHH!

Is that so
bad? Does
it really
need them?

It's
discuss
us first!

Aren't
there any
nude
scenes?

when my
former editor
H-da-san's
feedback was,

STEP 4: RECALL
THE OLD DAYS,

HOW
CAN YOU
ASK
THAT?!!

WHAT?!!

Maybe...
like, for
example...

What
was a new
author to
do?

At the time,
the characters'
relationship
hadn't really
developed yet.

A sh-
shower...
scene?

Huh? Well...
how about
Iatsumi-kun
or somebody?

...naked
man
butt?

...a shower
scene or
something....

GASP

Meaning
this?!

A
Tatsumi-ku
shower
scene?!

N... no,
that can't
be right....
It has to
be more...
sexy...

REE!

Hello,
Takanaga-san?

RUBBER
ROD
DUCKY
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

YAY
YAY

SHAAA

You really
think this
will be
enough
to keep
people
happy?

I do
wonder
....

Thus,
my most
popular
device is the
near-nudie
teaser.

so I got
off without
having to
insert fan
service that
time.

Thankf
there w
also an i
regardi
names

nudie scenes
should be
given serious
consideration
....

I gue
for
boys' l
series

I'm just too
embarrassed
to do it.

And it's
as thou
don't e
draw
them

Gravure-esque

Involving
whom?!

HUH—?!

Well...
involving Isogai,
of course.

when I had
only written the
first chapter
so far, and
H-da-san
said...

STEP 5: RECALL THE
OLD DAYS AGAIN,

Huh?

How about a
love triangle?

Meaning
this?!

DOOM!

GEH?!

The truth
is that I've
loved you ever
since we were
students
together.



What's wrong
with you?
Get a hold
of yourself,
Isogai!

Wa-
Wa—

Wait
just
a...

INCH

but now
that you've
come out, it's
a different
story.

I've kept
it to myself
because I
thought you
were normal,



AUGH!

STRIP

SHE

I even had
the blessing
of the editor
department
chief.

Now,
succumb
me, and.

In which
case—

UWH
AAA

and I figure
Kurokawa
probably would
have fallen
for it.

...Anyway,
the idea
was that
Isogai would
come on
strongly.

OMIGOSH! ♡
CONGRATULATIONS!

completely
being
the intent
awareness
the situation.

Tatsumi-kun
would give
them his
blessing.

May you
be happy
together!

I may hate
homos, but I
have no problem
as long as they
leave us alone.

If there's
no longer a
threat to
Tomoe, then I
couldn't be
happier.

His older
brother,
Souichi,
would
naturally
consent.

I'll accept
you for who
you are.

No matter
how the problem
is resolved, a
homosexual
is still a
homosexual.

SIGH

Kurokawa's
mother
would
eventually
cave in.

MY RIVAL GO
BYE-BYEEE!

♡

Phil
couldn't
care
less.

...

Rick
would be
overjoyed
by his swift
victory.

GOODBYE!



Yadday,
Yadday,
Congrats! ♥

BANZAAA!!
BANZAAA!!

AND
THEY'D
LIVE
HAPPILY
EVER
AFTER!



PEACE+J
FOR ALL

Something's not
right, something's
not right,
something's....

Kurokawa-san
only one feeling
though something
quite right, but o
His happiness ha
a thread either



Other
patterns
were
considered,
but none
of them
seemed
right.

Unlikely from
any angle....

...
Rejected.

Reason: The
ending would
have been
happy, but
the story
would have
lost its
meaning....

Hmm.
That's a
shame.

...I'm sorry.
I can't quite
wrap my head
around it....

Ah, I have
blaspheme
against my
editor!

B-But....



SORRY FOR
WASTING 15
PAGES ON
SOMETHING
SO LAME.



But
I had
fun....



It's like a
behind-the-
scenes look at
the making of
any normal
manga.

YES, IT'S OVER.

Anyway,
the story is
lame, but—

I'll be happy
if the people
who read it,

can enjoy it
even just a
little bit.

So,

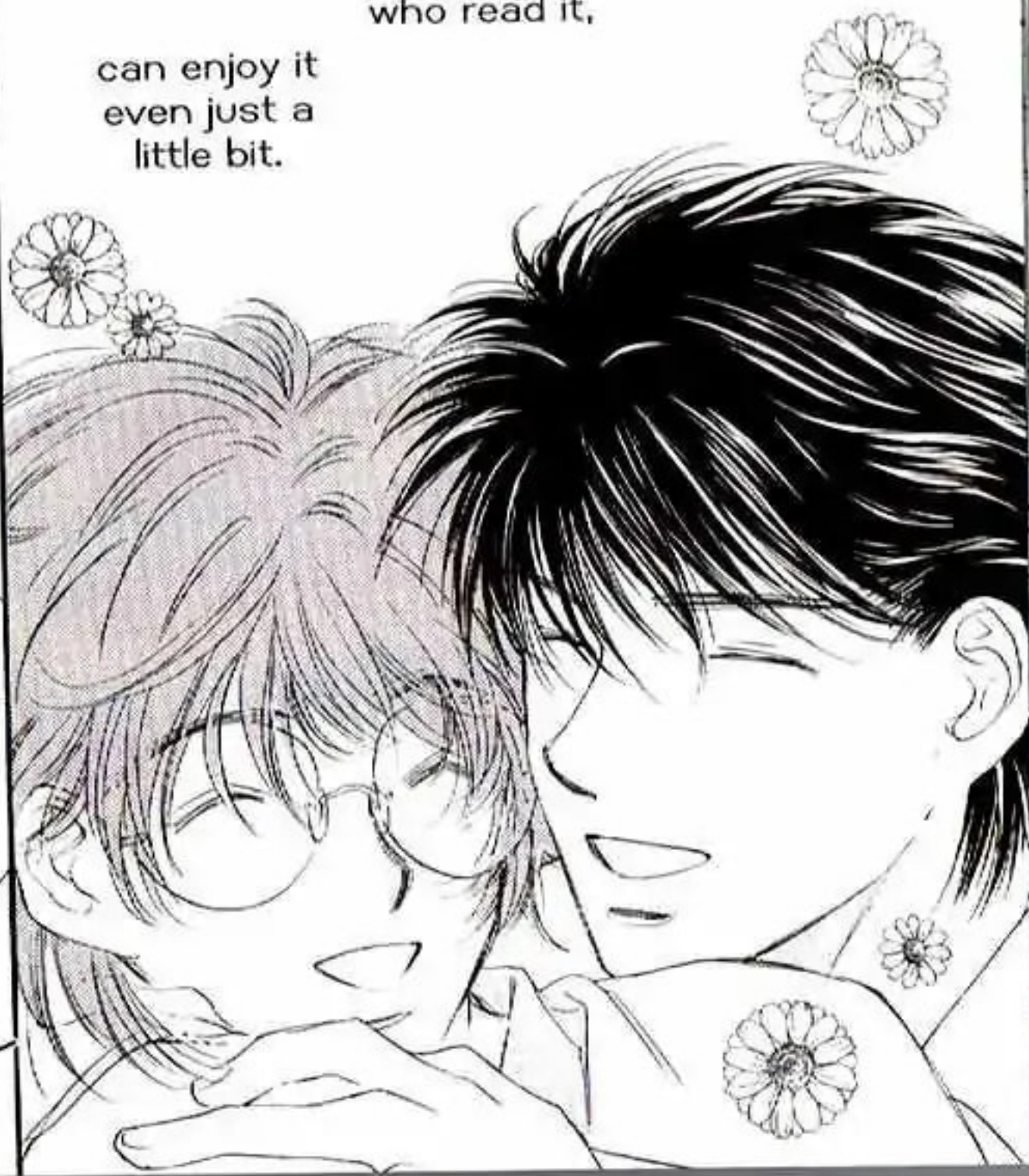
the story will
continue in the
next volume and
it would be my
pleasure if we
could keep meeting
like this.
♡

And with
that, I
bid you
adieu!!

There are still
some pages left
to go here, so
I'll throw in a
little something
extra...



Bye-bye!
Take
care!



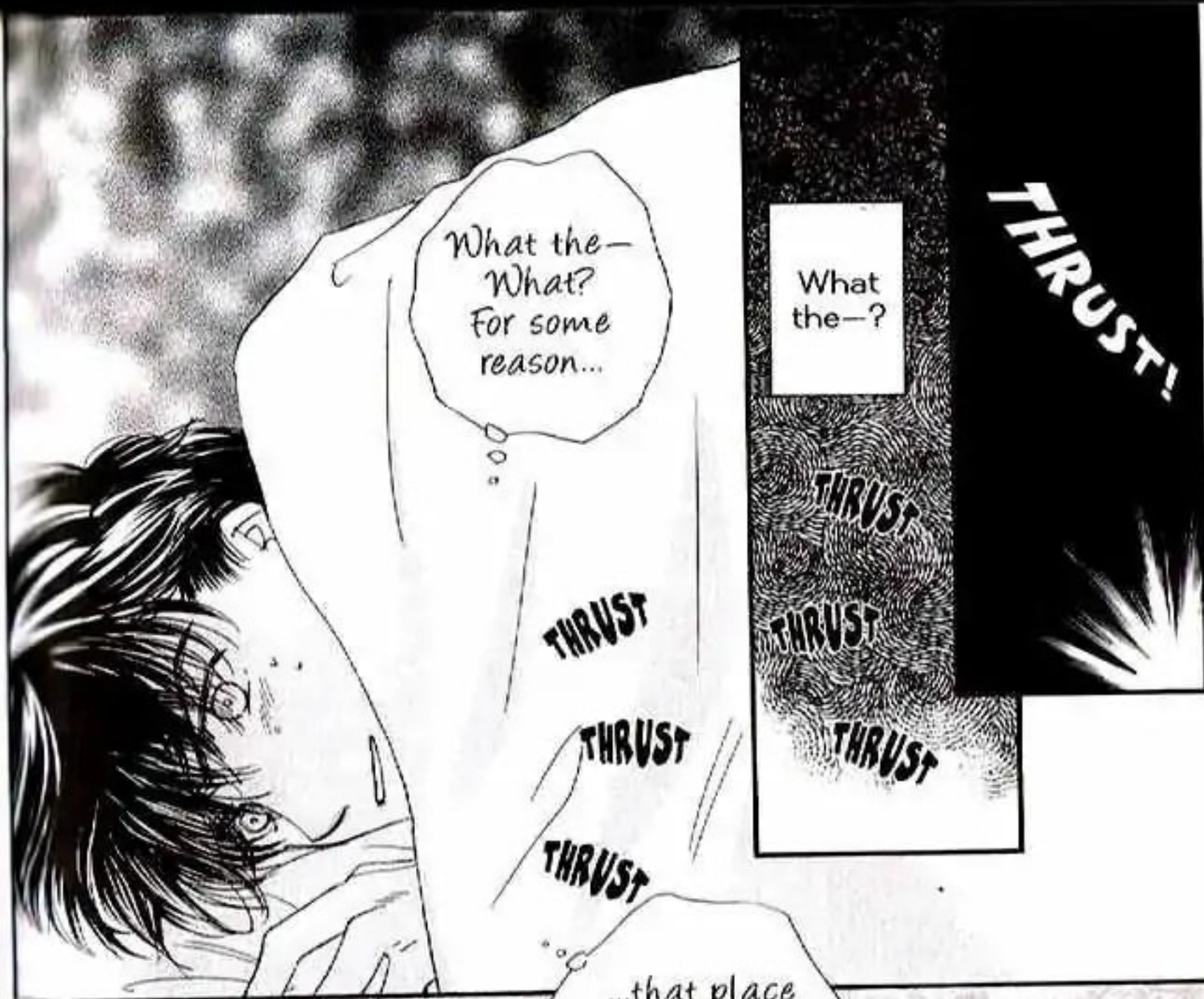
GRATUITO
EXTRA

TWEE
TWEE

Nn...?

At long last,
they formed
a connection,
and that
night...

Kurokawa-san
was going to
feel just how
deep it was!!



THRUST

THRUST

...that place
where the
sun don't
shine

really
hurts.



That was
good for me, ♡
Kurokawa-san.

SMILE
WITH
♡

BETA

ALPHA

FIN

Time to
write and
run.
Farewell!!

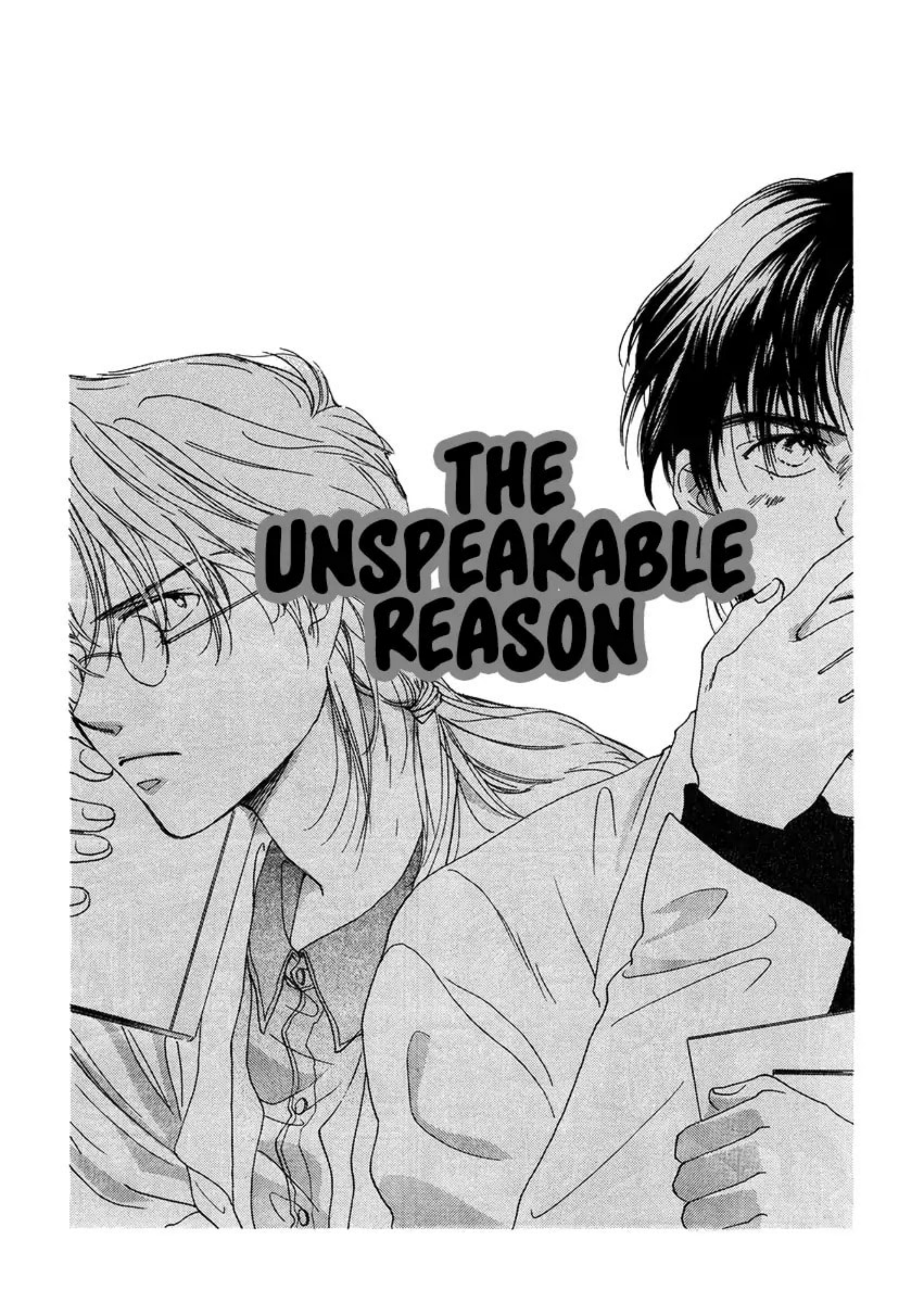
Uhh... well... the
thing is, there was a
period where my
friends and people I
know were saying
Kurokawa was like a
beta, so.... Yikes, is
this right?

TWEE
TWEE

...I just
had the
most horrible,
horrible
nightmare.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

Wh...
where the
hell did
that come
from?!



THE UNSPEAKABLE REASON







OUCH!

GEEZ

WHAT?

YOU
GET IT
READY!!

LET ME
MAKE A
PHONE
CALL IN
PEACE,
YOU
NAG!!

YOU'RE SO
MEAN,
SENPAI...

HOW LONG
ARE YOU
GOING TO
COMPLAIN?

THAT'S
WHY I
SAID I'D
BUY

POUT

FINE,
FINE

I'LL BUY
YOU SOME
GYOZA TOO

SLURP
SLURP
SLURP

YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN PUTTING
YOUR ALL INTO
YOUR RESEARCH
LATELY

WHY DID I
GIVE UP MY
DAY OFF TO
HELP YOU,
AGAIN.....?



SINCE HE'S
IN COLLEGE,
THAT MEANS
YOUR BROTHER
IS ALREADY 18,
RIGHT?

BUT WHY
ARE YOU SO
WORRIED?

HIS
NAME IS
MORINAGA
TETSUHIRO

HE'S A
4TH YEAR
AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCE
MAJOR



BY THE WAY,
THIS ONE IS A
SECOND YEAR
AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCE
MASTER'S
STUDENT



YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT
BECAUSE
YOU'VE NEVER
MET TOMOE

BESIDES.....
I TOLD YOU,
DIDN'T I?

YOU'RE BEING
WAY TOO
OVERPROTECTIVE
.....



HE'S A
PERVERT!

THAT'S
RIGHT

THAT HIS...
LANDLORD...
IS...

AH...
YEAH...

JUST WHAT IN
THE WORLD IS
HAPPENING TO
TOKYO!?!

HIS
LANDLORD'S
A PERVERT

And the
rent is
high!!

And the
subway is
easy to get
lost in

AND THE
EXCHANGE
STUDENT'S A
HOMO!!

THAT'S
NOT
REALLY
...

BECAUSE
IT'S TOKYO
...

SLAM

AND OUR
FATHER IS
NEVER HOME
SO I CAN'T
LEAVE MY LITTLE
SISTER ALONE

BUT I'M
STILL A
STUDENT

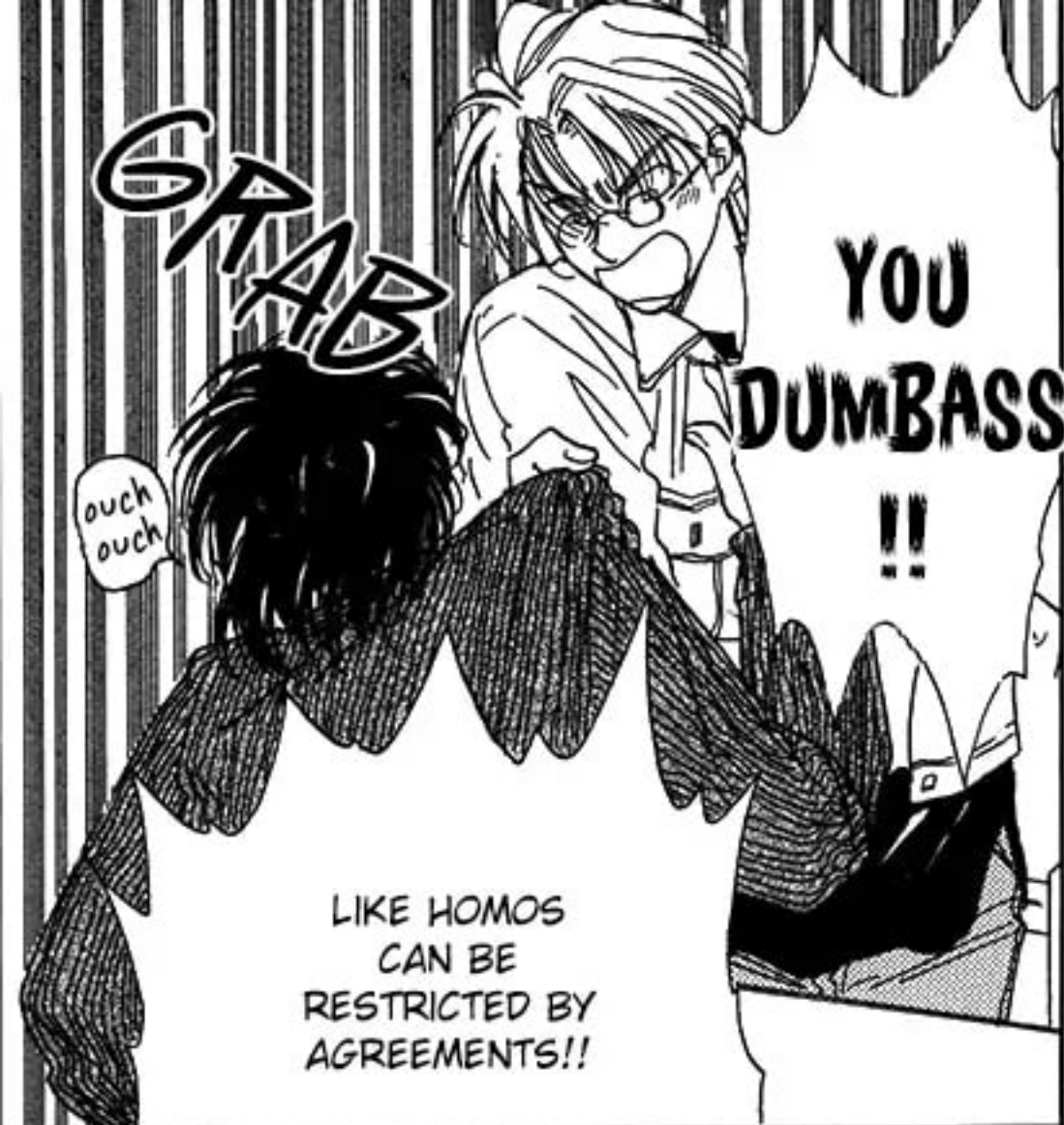
IT MAKES ME
WANT TO GO
LIVE IN TOKYO?

MY INSIDES
KEEP BEING
TORN TO
SHREDS!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
HOW BIG OF
A DILEMMA
I'M IN?

HUH?
DO YOU?

I'M SORRY,
SENPAI!!



**YOU
DUMBASS**

!!

LIKE HOMOS
CAN BE
RESTRICTED BY
AGREEMENTS!!



BUT DIDN'T
YOU SAY
YOU HAD
COME TO AN
AGREEMENT?

IF HE'S
HOLDING TO
THAT THEN HE'S
NOT REALLY A
BAD PERSON
IS HE...?

IRRITATED



THEY'RE A
TERRIFYING
SPECIES!

BECAUSE
HOMOS ARE ALL
RAPE DEMONS
.....

SENPAI
...

FOR
MORINAGA,

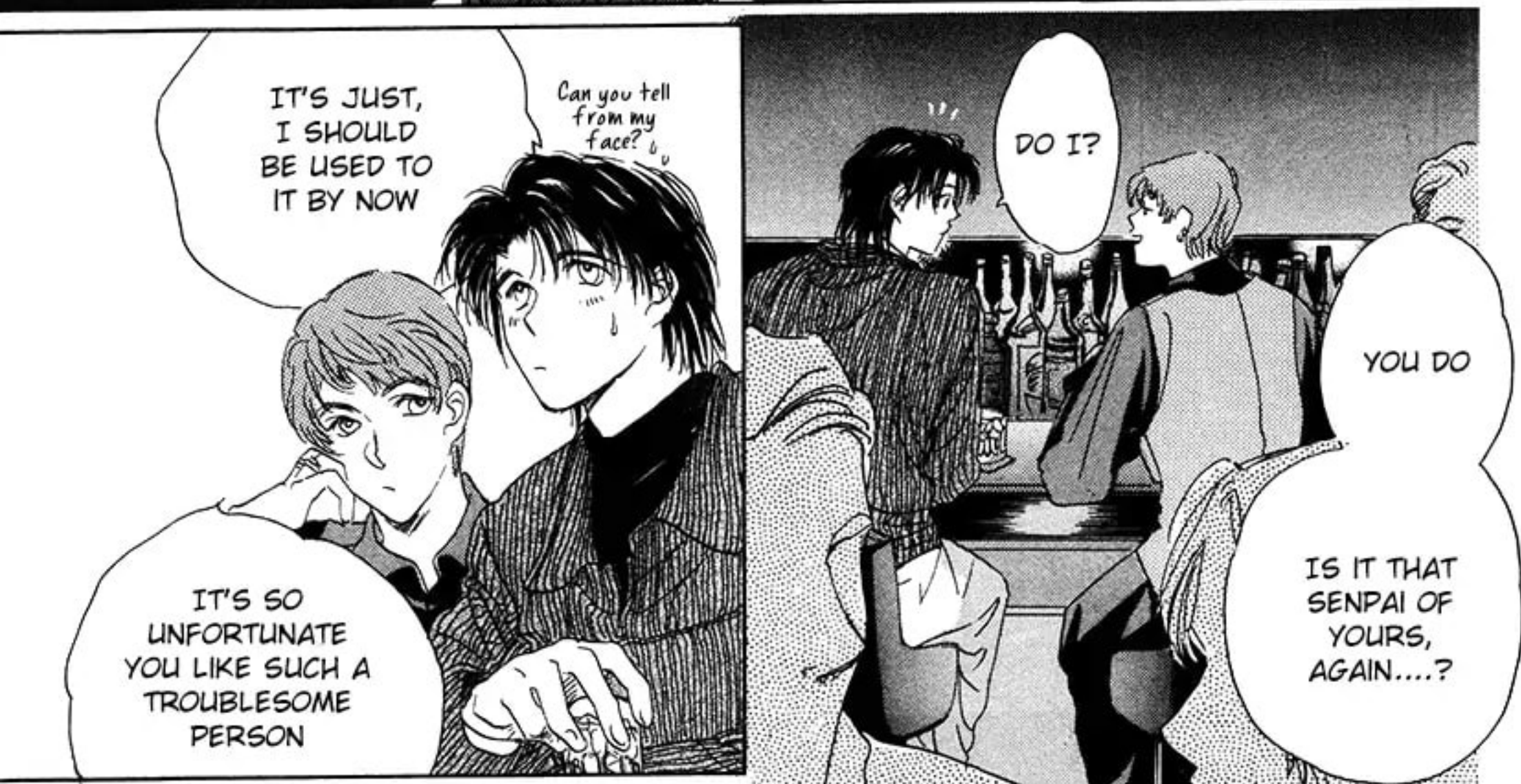
AND
THAT'S
BECAUSE

You
probably
already
know

HE FEELS
ESPECIALLY
BAD

WHENEVER
SOUICHI
SPEAKS SO
BADLY ABOUT
GAY PEOPLE







.....ARE YOU
NOT INTERESTED
IF IT'S NOT WITH
THE PERSON
YOU LIKE?

IF THAT'S THE
CASE THEN...
I QUITE
LIKE YOU,
ANGEL-KUN
.....

HE
HATES GAYS,
DOESN'T HE?

BUT
THAT'S
RIGHT
.....

SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
~~~~~

AW, COME  
ON...  
*That's so  
boring.*

I WONDER IF  
THERE'S A WAY  
TO GET HIM TO  
UNDERSTAND

Sigh

YEAH  
.....  
HE DOES  
.....  
*That is true*

THAT  
IS

Sigh  
!

WHY IS  
HE SO  
PREJUDICED?

THOUGH I'M  
SURE THERE'S  
NOT THAT MANY  
PEOPLE WHO  
WOULD SAY THEY  
LIKE US



A STORY  
FROM  
A LITTLE  
WHILE  
BACK

IT WAS THE  
WINTER OF  
MORINAGA'S  
SECOND  
YEAR

SENPAI  
!

HEY,  
TATSUMI-  
SENPAI!!

I'VE TOLD  
YOU I'M  
MORINAGA,  
A SECOND  
YEAR!!

PLEASE  
REMEMBER  
IT ALREADY!!

Ah  
SENPAI  
!!

.....  
?

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
I DON'T  
KNOW

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?

Geez





THANKS FOR INVITING ME BUT I'LL HAVE TO PASS

I'm not free right now

Ah!



Hm?

Hey, Morinaga-kun...

...



WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG?

WE'RE GOING OUT TO DRINK NOW



JUST NOW...

REJECTED AGAIN.....

WHAT? ARE YOU CLOSE WITH HIM, MORINAGA?

WASN'T THAT..... THE 4TH YEAR TATSUMI-SENPAI?



YOU DON'T NEED TO TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT, DO YOU?

MORINAGA

EH?

IRRITATED

NO... NOT REALLY .....

EH? THEN WHY DID YOU INVITE HIM?

THERE'S SO MANY RUMORS ABOUT HOW WEIRD HE IS, SO DON'T... GEEZ...

AH... I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT, THOUGH .....

IT'S JUST THAT HE'S HARD TO APPROACH

HE'S SCARY ...

...





AND  
THAT  
WAIST

HE HAS  
A PRETTY  
FACE AND A  
SLIM BODY

HE'S QUIET  
AND  
SCHOLARLY



OOH!

WITH THIS.

FELL IN  
LOVE  
SOON  
AFTER HE  
ENTERED  
COLLEGE

HE'S  
EXACTLY MY  
TYPE!!



YOU  
HAVE A  
NICE  
BODY

BUT  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

WHO THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU?

Umm...

I'D LIKE  
TO ASK  
YOU ABOUT  
THE TEST...



SINCE  
THEN

SENPAI,  
MAY  
I SIT  
HERE?

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?









IT WAS  
SUPER  
INTERESTING  
.....

THAT REMINDS  
ME I SAW  
A SPECIAL  
ON ETV  
ABOUT DRUG  
MANUFACTURING  
...

ARE YOU  
DOING THIS  
SORT OF  
STUFF IN YOUR  
CLASSES?

SHIT...  
I WON'T  
GIVE UP  
.....



AH!

NO...  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
BOTHER  
YOU.....



THE ETV  
SPECIAL!!  
WAS IT  
LAST  
MONTH?

HUH?

WHEN  
WAS IT?



EH?

Tsk

THAT'S  
THE ONE I  
MISSED...

And you  
said it was  
interesting!  
Go away!







AH...

THEN LET'S  
DO IT RIGHT  
AWAY! EVEN  
TONIGHT'S  
FINE ♡

ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
MIYOSHI  
ASKED ME TO  
HELP HIM.....  
SO I PROBABLY  
WON'T BE DONE  
TILL AFTER 9

NO, I'LL  
PROBABLY  
BE HERE  
LATE  
TONIGHT  
.....

THAT'S  
FINE ♡

I'LL JUST  
GO HOME AND  
THEN COME  
BACK AND WAIT  
AT THE BACK  
GATE AROUND  
THEN

UHM....

SMILES

REALLY  
?

THANKS

YES!!!

I'M  
SO GLAD  
I DIDN'T  
ERASE  
THAT  
VIDEO...

I  
SUDDENLY  
GOT TO  
INVITE HIM  
TO MY  
PLACE!!!









Sigh

Glance











GETS  
CLOSER



"SOMEONE"  
...

NO, IT'S  
REALLY NOT  
THAT BIG OF  
A DEAL.....

IF IT'S NOT A  
BIG DEAL, THEN  
YOU WOULDN'T  
BE TURNING ME  
DOWN, WOULD  
YOU?

HMM...  
WHAT'S  
WITH YOU  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN  
.....?

Ugh! Why  
are you  
getting so  
unnecessarily  
close...

FLINCH

I THOUGHT  
TODAY WOULD  
FINALLY BE THE  
DAY.....



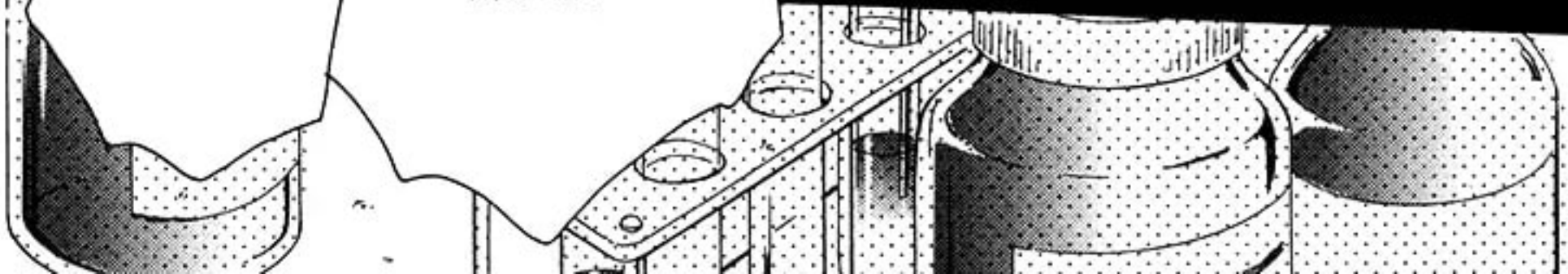
HUH?

T-T-T-TODAY  
WOULD BE THE  
DAY FOR  
WHAT?

EVEN  
CLOSER

TATSUMI-KUN!!

EH?  
WOA...  
WOAH...  
WAI-.....





THUMP

SENSEI!

LALA  
LALA



AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT



THAT  
UNSOCIABLE  
SEMPAI  
SAID

THANKS

HEHEHE  
♥

I FINISHED  
CLEANING  
MY PLACE

I BOUGHT  
ALCOHOL  
AND  
SNACKS

AND I  
REWOUND  
THE VIDEO



THAT'S  
WHAT HE  
SAID!!

I CAN'T  
TAKE IT!  
HERE COMES  
THE NOSE  
BLEED ♥

FIST  
PUMP

BEND  
OVER





IF IT GOES  
WELL THEN  
I CAN GET HIM  
TO SPEND THE  
NIGHT!!

WE'LL  
WATCH THE  
VIDEO AND  
DRINK

AND  
WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT ALL  
SORTS OF  
THINGS



AND IF  
HE STAYS  
OVER, HE'LL  
TAKE A  
SHOWER



MORINAGA!!

I  
KNOW!!

YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
ALONE,  
BUT THAT  
YOU'RE  
ACTUALLY  
LONELY  
.....

LATE AT  
NIGHT, WE  
CAN TALK  
ABOUT  
SERIOUS  
THINGS

SENPAI...





can't wait  
SPURTING  
EXTENDED

AS IF  
AS IF~♡

HAVING A  
BREAKDOWN



STILL...

SO I DIDN'T  
EXPECT HIM TO  
COME ON TIME  
BUT...

I EXPECTED  
THE  
EXPERIMENT  
TO RUN  
LONG...

HOO

Flap  
Flap

There's no way  
that would  
happen.

...HE'S  
PRETTY  
LATE  
THOUGH

Reality



CLATTER

SENSEI...!

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?

PLEASE STOP  
JOKING  
AROUND!

FALL

UNF!

KA  
KA  
KA

BWAH!

NN....

GAH!

UNGF!

KICKING

PETEW  
PETEW



COULD  
YOU BE?

WOAH...  
WAIT

WAAAAA  
AAAAAA  
TTTTTT  
TTTTTT

Tremble  
Tremble  
Tremble

Ha

Ha

THIS IS OKAY,  
TATSUMI-KUN?  
RIGHT?  
RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN  
WAITING  
FOR AN  
OPPORTUNITY  
LIKE THIS  
WITH YOU  
FOR A LONG  
TIME

I REALLY  
CAN'T  
MOVE...

GEH...

STUDENTS  
NOWADAYS  
ARE SO  
WEAK

SO EVEN  
I'M IN GOOD  
SHAPE NOW

No  
way...

Hehehe  
hehe

YOU'RE  
NOT  
JOKING  
!!!

I'M NOT  
LIKE  
THAT  
.....

GGLE

STRU





YOU'RE  
PLANNING ON  
MOVING ON TO A  
DOCTORATE IN  
THIS FIELD NEXT  
YEAR, RIGHT?

Woah!  
And I've been  
feeling something  
hitting my inner  
thigh for a bit  
now...

**MNGA!**

SERIOUSLY!  
NO!

I'M  
TELLING  
YOU TO  
STOP!!



IF YOU DO  
THEN I'LL BE  
YOUR ADVISING  
PROFESSOR

SO THIS WILL  
BE GOOD FOR  
YOUR TEST.....  
OKAY?



**FLICKING  
ASSHOLE!!**

TH....

THIS.....

Tremble  
Tremble  
Tremble  
Tremble









I'M  
MORINAGA,  
REMEMBER  
THAT!!  
A SECOND  
YEAR!!

STOMP

WAH!

WHO  
ARE  
YOU...?

Pant  
Pant

STOP TALKING  
ALL HIGH AND  
MIGHTY!!

ST-...  
STOP  
THAT!

Erin

.....  
MOVE,  
MORINAGA

WOBBLE....

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT,  
YOU  
CRIMINAL!!

STOP  
KICKING  
ME!

I'm an assistant  
Professor, you know!





GLEAM

I SAID  
MOVE

DID YOU  
NOT HEAR  
ME.....?

EH...



SENPAI??

GULP

SE-



LWA  
AAA  
HH  
GH!

BUT I  
TOOK  
THIS GUY  
DOWN.  
SO YOU  
DON'T  
NEED TO

I TOLD  
YOU TO  
MOVE

WOAH,  
SENPAI!!  
I  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW YOU  
FEEL!

Wobble  
Wobble  
Wobble

WOULD YOU  
LET ME GO,  
MORINAGA!

SHARP  
THINGS ARE  
DANGEROUS!!  
THIS IS  
GOING TO  
BECOME AN  
INCIDENT!

SENPAI!

STRUGGLE









I'LL MAKE  
IT SO HE  
CAN NEVER  
USE IT  
AGAIN!!!

I WON'T BE  
SATISFIED UNTIL I  
CHOP OFF THIS  
GUY'S XXX AND  
CUT IT INTO  
SLICES!

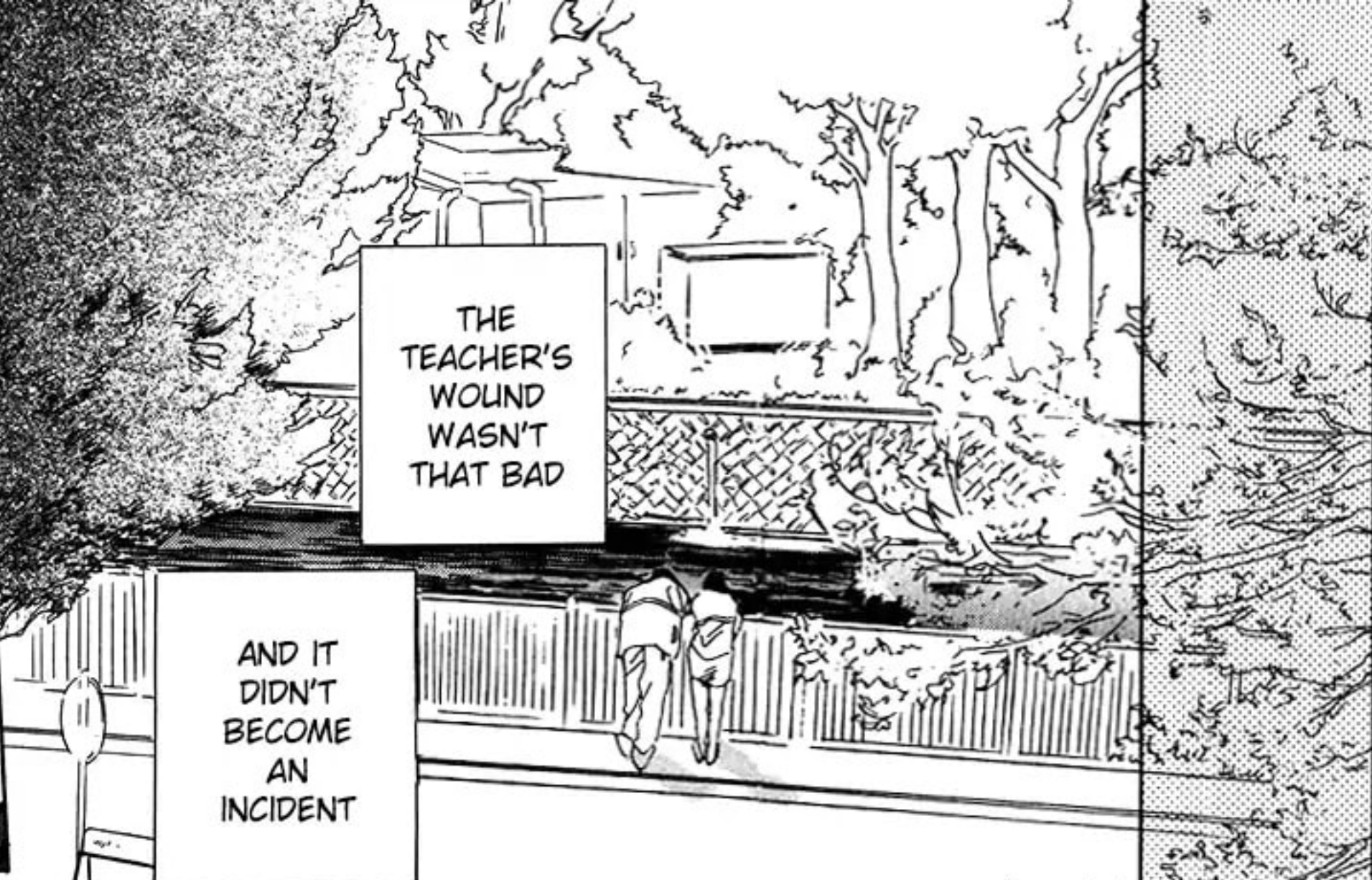
I'M!





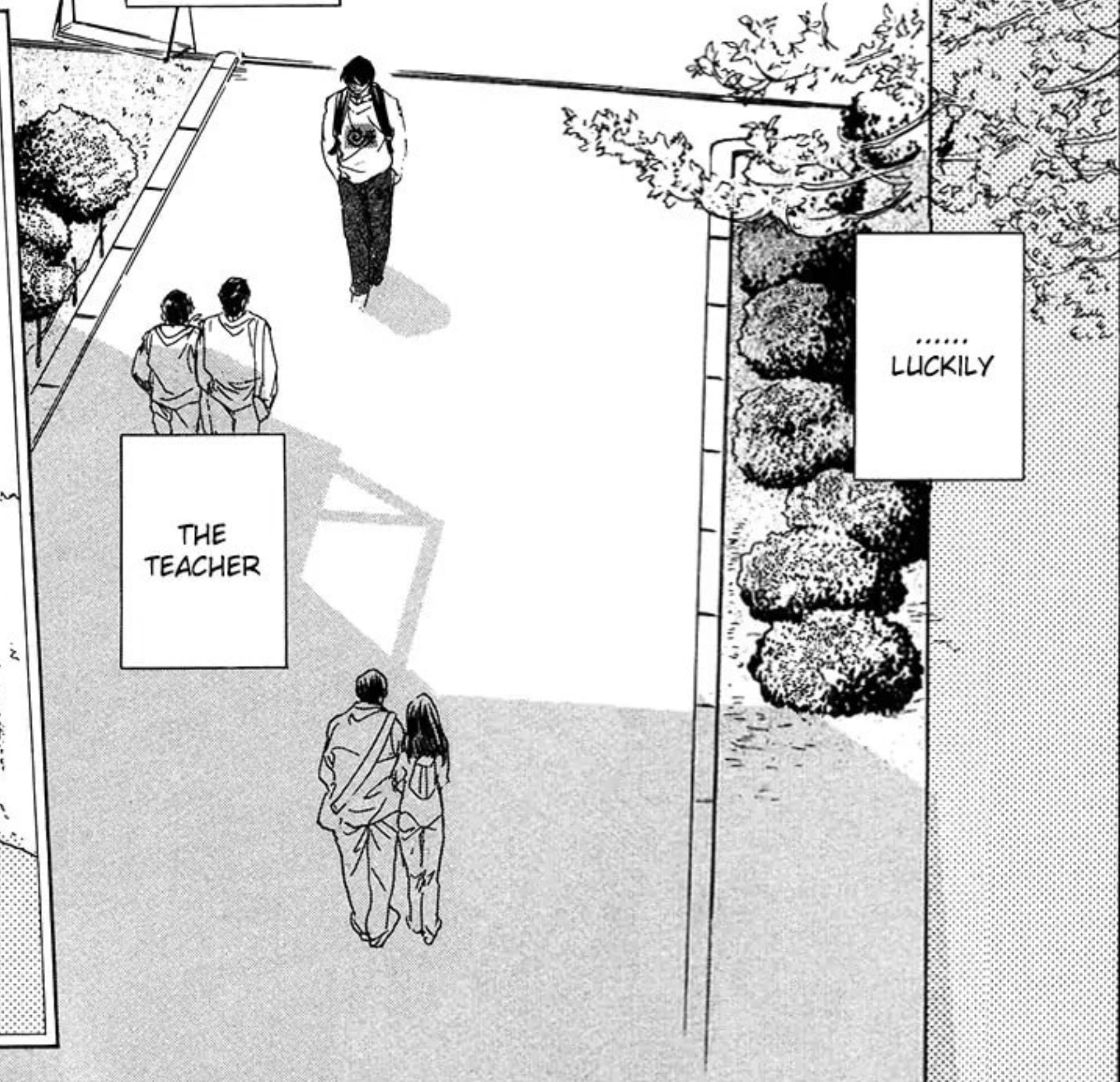
LEFT THE SCHOOL FOR "PERSONAL REASONS"

HE WAS PROBABLY SCARED  
*I feel a little bad for him...*



THE TEACHER'S WOUND WASN'T THAT BAD

AND IT DIDN'T BECOME AN INCIDENT



..... LUCKILY

THE TEACHER



SENPAI HAS BEEN LEARNING CHINESE KENPO SINCE THEN

*Get strength and fight like people*



JUST MAKING HIM EVEN SCARIER  
IT'S...

MORI-NAGA!

AND AS FOR ME  
.....



I'M SORRY, I WON'T DO IT AGAIN !!!

I WAS- I WAS IN THE WRONG



AT FIRST  
IT WAS A  
LITTLE SCARY,  
THOUGH

IF YOU  
SPEAK A  
WORD OF  
THIS TO  
ANYONE  
.....

I  
WON'T!  
I  
WON'T!

SOB  
SOB

SURE

I GAINED  
THE POSITION  
OF A RELIABLE  
UNDERCLASSMAN

SORRY!!  
COULD YOU  
HELP ME  
TODAY,  
TOO!?!

THAT'S  
COMPLETELY  
FINE WITH  
ME

My place  
is close

WE PROBABLY  
WON'T BE  
ABLE TO MAKE  
THE LAST  
TRAIN TONIGHT

IS THAT  
OKAY?

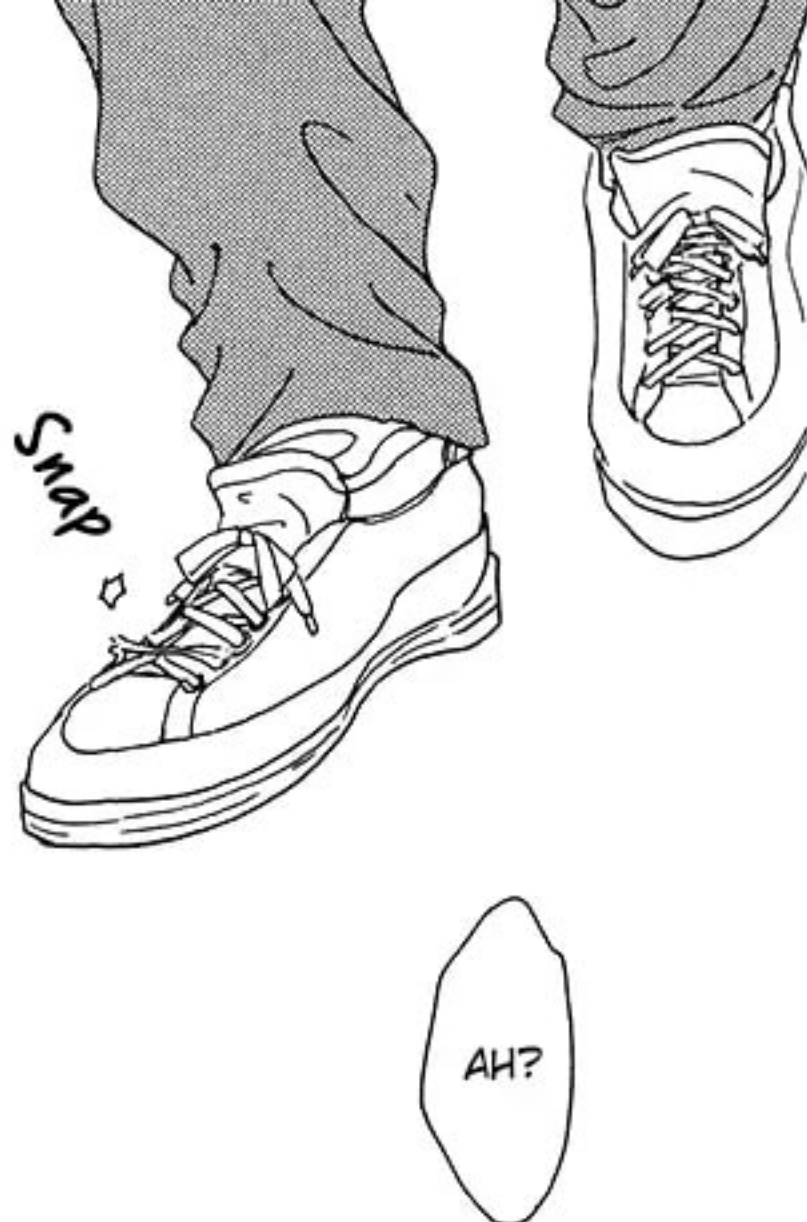




IT'S  
A BAD  
OMEN



MY SHOE  
STRING...



AH?



SENPAI,  
SENPAI

BEEPBOOP  
BAPBOOP

GOTTA  
CALL,  
GOTTA  
CALL



THAT'S  
TRUE



SOMETHING  
REALLY DID  
HAPPEN,  
DIDN'T IT!?

DAMN IT!  
EVEN  
THOUGH I'M  
CALLING HIM,  
HE'S NOT  
ANSWERING!

IT'S A  
WEEKDAY  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF THE  
DAY,  
SENPAI

HARRUMPY—





This  
and this...

IT SEEMS  
HE HAS A  
DISGUST FOR  
THEM FROM  
THE BOTTOM  
OF HIS HEART

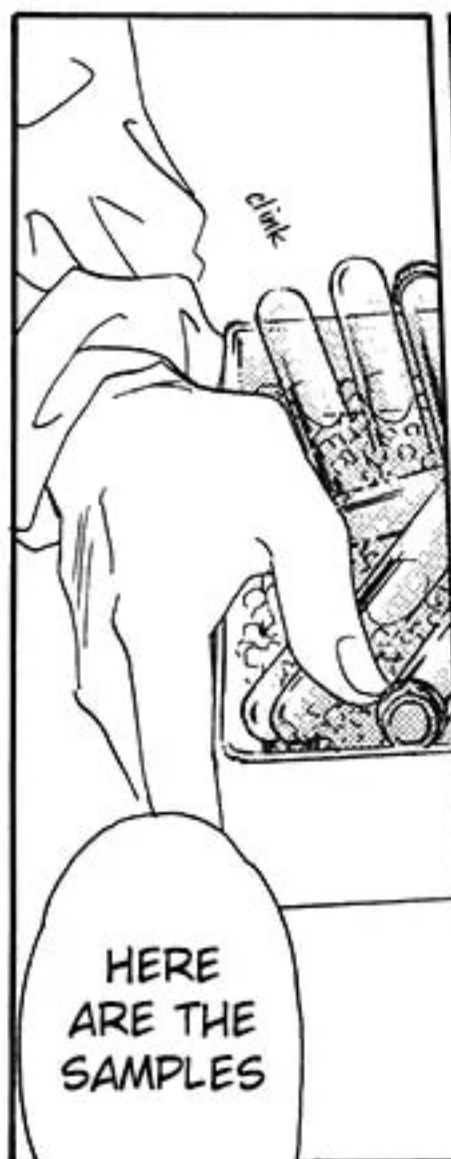
AND  
DETESTS  
THEM

Sigh

And he thinks  
all gays are  
rape demons...

SO  
THAT'S  
WHY  
SENPAI

CAME  
TO HATE  
GAYS



HERE  
ARE THE  
SAMPLES

A TON  
OF  
TROUBLE  
.....

I'M SURE  
HE'S GIVING  
HIS LITTLE  
BROTHER  
AND THAT  
LANDLORD



Okay

We need to  
take samples  
every 20  
minutes





Sigh

THIS  
TROUBLESOME  
PERSON...?

WHY  
DID I  
COME TO  
LIKE  
.....



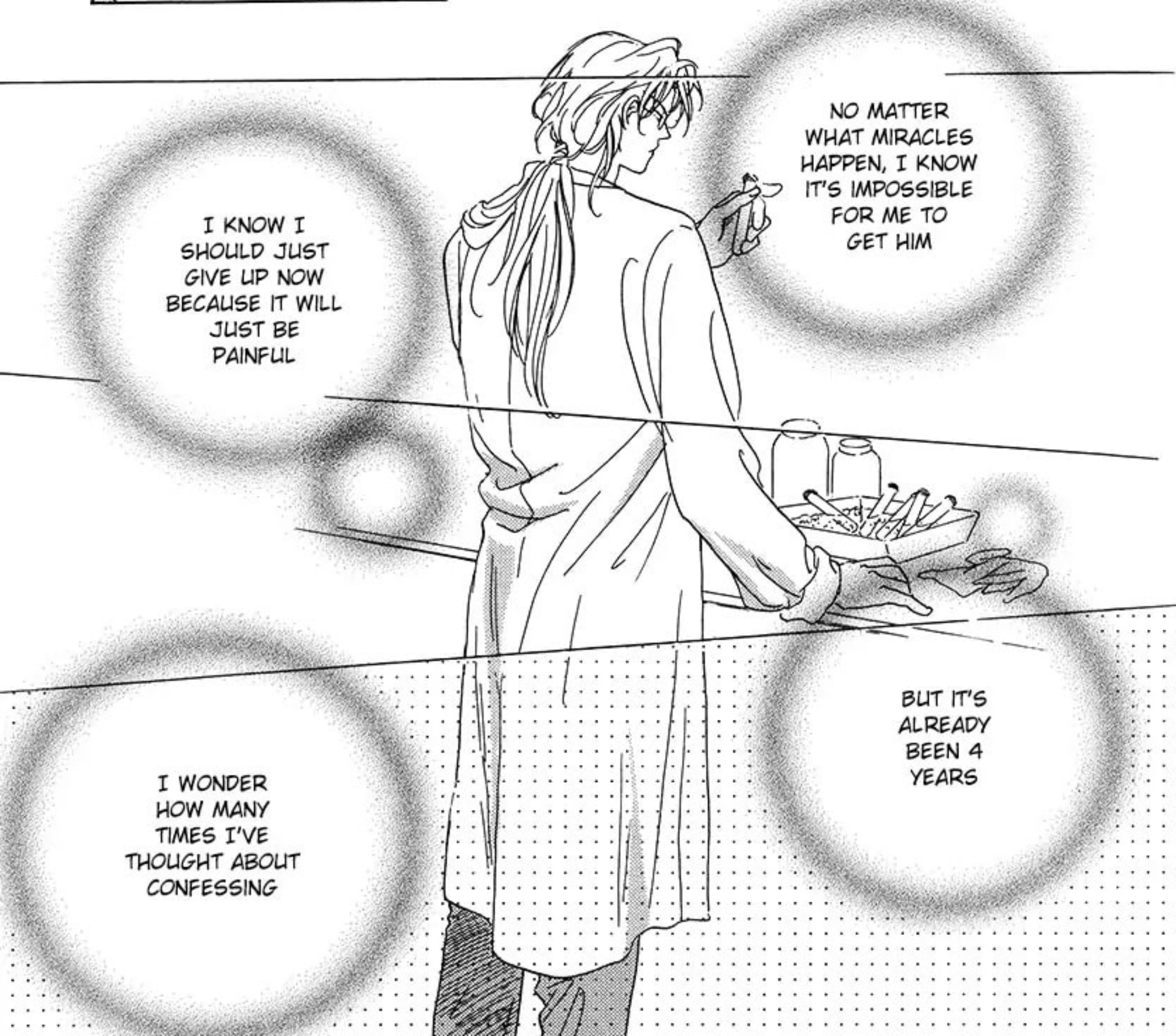
We have to  
do it at  
any cost



I'M GONNA  
DIE

I THINK  
AFTER WE TAKE  
SAMPLES, WE  
NEED TO MAKE  
HISTOLOGICAL  
SLIDES OF THEM

DO WE  
REALLY HAVE  
TO DO THAT  
TODAY  
.....?



I KNOW I  
SHOULD JUST  
GIVE UP NOW  
BECAUSE IT WILL  
JUST BE  
PAINFUL

NO MATTER  
WHAT MIRACLES  
HAPPEN, I KNOW  
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR ME TO  
GET HIM

I WONDER  
HOW MANY  
TIMES I'VE  
THOUGHT ABOUT  
CONFESSING

BUT IT'S  
ALREADY  
BEEN 4  
YEARS



BUT

THIS IS HEAVEN  
COMPARED TO WHEN I  
THOUGHT WE'D NEVER  
EVEN HAVE THIS SORT  
OF RELATIONSHIP  
EITHER

LET'S  
GO

I'M SO  
SCARED,  
I CAN'T  
TELL HIM

HEY ARE  
YOU  
LISTENING,  
MORINAGA  
!

AND

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
BECOME  
USELESS TO  
HIM YET

*And I value  
my life*

AH!  
YES,  
YES

HEY,  
MORINAGA?